

INFODAY 2 AIBC OPEN CALLS

AIBC EUROCLUSTERS Consortium

July 25th, 2023







AIBC EUROCLUSTERS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) & BlockChain (BC) for a greener and more digital economy supported by EUROpean CLUSTERS

Tackling the cross-fertilisation of AI and BC into different industrial ecosystems (manufacturing, mobility, logistics, energy)





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AIBC EUROCLUSTERS OPEN CALLS ELIGIBLE COMPANIES

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs*) & Start-ups (in the form of SMEs)

- working on Artificial Intelligence (AI) / Blockchain (BC) technologies
- from the manufacturing, mobility, logistics or energy sectors, interested in adopting AI & BC solutions to be more digital, resilient and green.

established in the Member States of the European Union (EU) and Countries participating in the Single Market Programme (SMP)

*SME definition according with the Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC and the SME user guide:

- < 250 employees</p>
- Annual turnover: less or equal to €50 million or Annual balance sheet total: less or equal to €43 million.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES (FSTP)

MAX. AMOUNT FOR SME

Beneficiaries can participate to the different AIBC EUROCLUSTERS OPEN CALLS, but a single SME cannot receive more than 60.000,00 EUR overall.

LUMP-SUM PAYMENT

All: Payment after completion of the funded activity upon acceptance of report and proof of the activities/projects being achieved.

Digitalisation Services & Product Development | Project proposals: possibility of an interim payment of 20% (after 2 months from the beginning of activities) linked to the favourable outcome of a "Declaration of financial capacity" according to:

Option 1: [Total amount requested by the Beneficiary / Revenues] <= 50%

→ company must have revenues equal to at least double the amount of financial support requested to the AIBC Call.

Option 2, only if the first option is not reached:

[Total amount requested by the Beneficiary / Shareholders' equity] <= 50%

→ company must have a SE equal to at least double the amount of its financial support requested to the AIBC Call.



5K EUR

TRAINING



Opening date: 6 June 2023 Deadline: 5 Sept 2023



Training Activities targeted by the call, in presence or online:

- Coaching
- Mentoring
- Interactive training
- On-the-job training
- Courses

150.000,00 EUR → up to 5.000,00 EUR x SME







ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Beneficiaries

1 SME or Start-up from ICT (AI or BC), manufacturing, mobility, logistics or energy sectors.

Activities eligible for funding

- Digitalisation planning related to Artificial Intelligence and/or Blockchain adoption;
- Specific implementation of Al and BC;
- Updates on Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain technologies;
- How AI/BC support the twin transition, sustainability, resilience;
- New skills related to AI/BC technologies;
- Knowledge transfer mechanism in the fields of AI, BC, Green, Sustainability and Resilience;
- □ Development of **business models** implementing/adopting AI, BC, Green, Sustainability and Resilience.

Issue of the Attendance Certificate and Training Activity final report needed.

Duration of activities

Training activities must start after the signature of the agreement and be completed by September 2024.

Eligible costs

Only costs for the training activities.



EVALUATION

Selection

At least 30 companies will receive financial support.

Evaluation criteria

Section 1: **RELEVANCE** (max 15 points)

 Specific and general objectives tackled by the training

Section 2: COHERENCE (max 20 points)

- Training activity sustainability and quality related to the competences acquired through the training;
- Coherence with the AIBC objectives and goals.

Section 3: **IMPACT** (max 15 points)

- Contribution to enhance the innovation/digitalisation level of the staff participating

TOTAL SCORE achievable: 50 points (threshold 40)



TIMELINE

Opening date:
6 June 2023
Deadline:
5 Sept 2023

Information to applicants:
Mid-October 2023

Duration of activities:
From signature of
the agreement to September
2024 (no later than)



OPENING AND CLOSING DATES

To present your proposal online, through the EU Survey platform.

5 DAYS FROM HERE

(for the accepted applicants)
To accept funding agreement terms and conditions via email to aibc@piemonteinnova.it and then to proceede with the agreement signature.

PAYMENT OF THE LUMP-SUM:

Within 60 days after receiving the reporting documents.

15K EUR

SERVICES & PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT



Opening date:

6 June 2023

Deadlines:

(1) 5 Sept 2023

New Deadline: 12 Sept 2023

(2) 16 Jan 2024



Activities targeted by the call:

- Technology transfer
- Use of infrastructures
- Proof of Concept (PoC)
- Business model development
- Innovation development services
- Resilience continuity plans
- Product/solution development

300.000,00 EUR → 150.000,00 EUR cut-off → up to 15.000,00 EUR





MACRO CHALLENGES ADDRESSED BY THE CALL

Macro-challenges - Open Call for Digitalisation Services and Product Development	
1 Sustainability and Green manufacturing using AI and Blockchain (linked to environmental impact)	Manufacturing Energy Logistics
2 Blockchain applications to support transactions	Manufacturing Energy Logistics Mobility
3 Identify the sources of inefficiency and take corrective actions through Blockchain / Al	Manufacturing Energy Logistics Mobility
4 Renewable energy sources and smart grid management thanks to AI (machine learning) and blockchain applications	Energy Mobility
5 AI for Optimisation of Logistics paths	Logistics Mobility
6 AI for Smart Mobility and pollution reduction within cities	Mobility

TOPICS ADDRESSED BY THE CALL (I)

Macro-challenge	Challenge/topic description	
1 O	1.1 How AI/BC can enable / support the demonstration of CO2 consumption/emissions for environment friendly products (i.e. in view of a certification, to be more competitive for clients)	Manufacturing Energy
1 Sustainability and Green	1.2 Data analysis predictive and prescriptive maintenance manufacturing.	Manufacturing
manufacturing using AI and Blockchain (linked to	1.3 Reduce production generated waste and limit the environmental impact of production-processes. i.e. by enhancing of personnel-awareness; improving traceability processes of products; make a constant control of the end-of-life, and a resilient green transition.	Manufacturing Energy Logistics
environmental impact)	1.4 Process efficiency to reduce energy consumption, possibly with the introduction of innovative robotisation systems. Among the greatest issues to face are: energy costs, lack of qualified staff, robotisation process of companies, develop tools for processing polymeric materials with new parameters.	Manufacturing Energy
2 Blockchain	 2.1 Enabling and disintermediating complex payments and/or the exchange of values and services, through the use of blockchain technologies. 2.2 Notarisation of documents and transactions, certifying the time-stamp, in order to favour the service-conversion and the certification. Avoid counterfeiting and ensure the recognition 	All Manufacturing Energy Logistics Mobility
support transactions	of credits and rewards. 2.3 Documentation management: concerning the goods, the driver and the vehicle transporting them, as well as the recipient.	Logistics
	2.4 Intellectual property management: register and protect intellectual property such as patents, trademarks and copyrights.	Manufacturing

TOPICS ADDRESSED BY THE CALL(II)

Macro-challenge	Challenge/topic description	
	3.1 Blockchain as a tool to record and monitor production activities and products quality in order to support companies to identify problems as quickly as possible and take corrective actions promptly.	Manufacturing Energy
3 Identify the sources of inefficiency and take corrective actions through Blockchain / Al	3.2 In order to create an immutable and transparent record of logistics and transportation, blockchain can be introduced within company procedures to avoid delays or errors in delivery and take corrective actions promptly when needed.	Manufacturing Logistics Mobility
	3.3 Need to improve traceability methods for manufacturers, retailers and customers, for instance adopting PDA, and favouring the integration, communication and coordination between all the actors. 3.4 Al for automatic suggestion of the set-up parameters referred to the production lines. i.e., algorithms based on the characteristics of the work-order compared to the history of the processes.	Manufacturing Logistics Manufacturing
4 Renewable energy sources and smart grid management thanks to AI (machine learning) and blockchain applications	 4.1 Integration of electric vehicles in power management platforms for smart grids to progressively include as more subjects and objects as possible in the electric-smart grids. 4.2 Revision of the paradigm of adaptation of the energy production to the energy consumption, part of the consumption must be now adapted to the production taking into consideration the characteristics of intermittent renewable energy sources. I.e., differing some non-priority uses. 	Energy Mobility Energy

TOPICS ADDRESSED BY THE CALL(III)

Macro-challenge	Challenge/topic description	
5 Al for Optimisation of Logistics paths	5.1 Improving the transport operations, by planning new routes in long-haul international routes, according to ordinary and unplannable delays. Analysis and study of a method able to re-plan a route (when delayed) and minimise the impact of the delay.	Logistics Mobility
6 Al for Smart Mobility and pollution reduction within cities	6.1 Road network maintenance (roads, pavements and signs): how to extract precise information and large amounts of data from different sources and obtain reliable pavement degradation models to allow accurate estimations of the maintenance actions. 6.2 Al to support pollution forecasting, monitoring and modelling for cities, companies, etc.	Mobility Mobility



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Beneficiaries

1 SME from ICT (AI or BC), manufacturing, mobility, logistics or energy sectors, officially **founded before 31.12.2021** and registered in an EU Member State or country participating in the SMP.

Duration

Up to **six months** from the signature of the agreement and completed **by September 2024**.

Eligible costs

The funding amount must cover the costs for the services and activities, that will be offered by a service provider activated by the company. The costs are exclusively meant for performing the services and the activities allowed.



EVALUATION

Selection

At least 20 companies will receive financial support.

Evaluation criteria

Section 1: **RELEVANCE** (max 35 points)

- Coherence of the proposal with the selected challenge proposed;
- Solutions adequacy of the proposal with the specific and general objectives of the SME

Section 2: **COHERENCE** (max 30 points)

- Service provider(s)
 sustainability and quality
 (competences and expertise);
- Financial assessment of costs (based on market costs);
- Timeline and organization of work.

Section 3: IMPACT (max 35 points)

- Contribution to enhance the innovation/digitalisation level of SME;
- Degree of exploitation, transferability of results and replicability.

TOTAL SCORE achievable: 100 points (threshold: 66)



TIMELINE

Opening date:
6 June 2023
Deadlines:
(a)12 Sept 2023
(b)16 Jan 2024

Information to applicants:
(a)End of October 2023
(b)End of February 2024

Duration of activities:
From agr.signature to
_1st cut-off selected SMEs:
7th June 2024
_2nd cut-off selected SMEs:
30th September 2024



OPENING AND CLOSING DATES

To present your proposal online, according to the cut-off date, through the EU Survey platform.

5 DAYS FROM HERE

(for the accepted applicants in each cut-off)
To accept funding agreement terms and conditions via email to aibc@piemonteinnova.it and then to proceede with the agreement signature.

PAYMENT OF THE LUMP-SUM:

20% of total amount (when possible) by first 2 months; 80% of total amount within 60 days from the final sending.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS



Opening date:

6 June 2023

Deadlines:

- (1) 5 Sept 2023
- (2) 16 Jan 2024



Activities targeted by the call

- Thematic Summits
- International Conventions
- Global Forums
- Conferences
- Congresses
- Exhibitions
- Fairs

20.000,00 EUR → 10.000,00 EUR cut-off → up to 2.000,00 EUR x SME







ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Beneficiaries

1 SME or Start-up working on Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Blockchain (BC) technologies.

Activities eligible for funding

In-person participation of SMEs or Start-up in events

- related to AI & BC technologies,
- in Europe and outside Europe.

Duration

The event must happen between November 2023 and October 2024, after the signature of the agreement and before the AIBC project ends.

Eligible costs

The eligible costs are exclusively those related to the participation in the event: travelling costs, accommodation, subsistence, fees for participation in the event, booth costs.



EVALUATION

Selection

at least 10 companies will receive financial support.

Evaluation criteria

Section 1: COMPANY PROFILE (max 10 points)

- Company profile according to AIBC target;
- Where do you see your company within the next 5 years in terms of Al and/or BC development and internationalisation?

Section 2: OBJECTIVES AND GOALS TO PARTICIPATE TO THE EVENT (max 40 points)

- Specific objectives of the company in the short term regarding the participation in the selected event;
- Contribution of this event to the development of the company.

TOTAL SCORE achievable: **50 points** (threshold: 40)



TIMFLINE

Opening date: 6 June 2023 Deadlines: (a)5 Sept 2023 (b)16 Jan 2024 Information to applicants:

(a)Beginning October 2023

(b)Beginning February 2024

Period to participate to events:

From agreement signatures to October 2024 (no later than)







OPENING AND CLOSING DATES

To present your proposal online, according to the cut-off date, through the EU Survey platform.

5 DAYS FROM HERE

(for the accepted applicants in each cut-off) To accept funding agreement terms and conditions via email to AIBC@bwcon.de and then to proceede with the agreement signature.

PAYMENT OF THE LUMP-SUM:

Within 60 days after receiving the reporting documents.

EUR

65K PROJECT **PROPOSALS**

Opening date:

6 June 2023

Deadline:

5 Sept 2023

New Deadline: 12 Sept 2023



Activities targeted by the call

- Development of AI / BC prototype solutions for end-users to arrive to the MVP (Minimum Viable Product) stage at least.
- Testing through pilot/demonstrator of new / improved environmentally friendly products, solutions and/or services, using AI and/or Blockchain in the industry of reference.

520.000,00 EUR → up to 65.000,00 EUR x consortium





MACRO CHALLENGES ADDRESSED BY THE CALL

Macro-challenges - Open Call for Digitalisation Services and Product Development	
1 Sustainability and Green manufacturing using AI and Blockchain (linked to environmental impact)	Manufacturing Energy Logistics
2 Blockchain applications to support transactions	Manufacturing Energy Logistics Mobility
3 Identify the sources of inefficiency and take corrective actions through Blockchain / Al	Manufacturing Energy Logistics Mobility
4 Renewable energy sources and smart grid management thanks to AI (machine learning) and blockchain applications	Energy Mobility
5 AI for Optimisation of Logistics paths	Logistics Mobility
6 AI for Smart Mobility and pollution reduction within cities	Mobility Manufacturing
7 Improving company's services and products under a Web3 perspective	Energy Logistics Mobility

TOPICS ADDRESSED BY THE CALL(I)

Macro-challenge	Challenge description	
1 Custoinability and	1A Blockchain implementation could improve the efficiency document accountability in all reverse logistics operations- Reverse logistics cover all activities related to the product once it has left its normal life cycle or is to be returned. Due to the further increase of e-commerce, reverse logistics has been more challenging than direct logistics and implies a major expense for companies. Besides, as in every supply chain process, blockchain will improve the manufacturing process and quality control enabling transparency.	Logistics
1 Sustainability and Green manufacturing	1B Data analysis predictive/prescriptive maintenance manufacturing.	Manufacturing
using AI and Blockchain (linked to environmental impact)	1C Reduce production generated waste and limit the environmental impact of production-processes. i.e. by enhancing of personnel-awareness; improving traceability processes of products; make a constant control of the end-of-life, and a resilient green transition. 1D The manufacturing business is a dynamic environment, where there is always the possibility to be faster and more precise. With the constant development of	Manufacturing Energy Logistics
	technologies, and with their proper adaptation, the manufacturing processes can adapt and improve significantly companies need to provide employees a safer and more secure working environment Analysis of new parameters to improve the efficiency of manufacturing processes to improve energy consumption.	Manufacturing Manufacturing
2 Blockchain applications to support transactions	2A Enabling and disintermediating complex payments and/or the exchange of values and services, through the use of blockchain technologies. 2B Documentation management: concerning the goods, the driver and the vehicle transporting them, as well as the recipient.	All Energy Logistics Mobility Logistics

TOPICS ADDRESSED BY THE CALL(II)

Macro-challenge	Challenge description	
3 Identify the sources of inefficiency and take corrective actions through Blockchain / Al	3A Blockchain as a tool to record and monitor production activities and products quality in order to support companies to identify problems as quickly as possible and take corrective actions promptly. 3B Blockchain can be introduced and improved among company-procedures to create an immutable and transparent record of logistics and transportation, and in order to support companies in better managing warranty claims and intellectual property. This provides support to companies in avoiding delays or errors in delivery, counterfeiting and ensuring the recognition of credits and rewards, and taking corrective actions promptly when needed. 3C Need to improve traceability methods for manufacturers, retailers and customers, for instance adopting PDA, and favouring the integration, communication and coordination between all the actors.	Manufacturing Energy Manufacturing Logistics Mobility Manufacturing Logistics
	3D AI for automatic suggestion of the set-up parameters referred to the production lines. i.e. algorithms based on the characteristics of the work-order compared to the history of the processes.	Manufacturing
energy sources and smart grid management thanks to Al (machine learning) and blockchain applications	4A Integration of electric vehicles in power management platforms for smart grids to progressively include as more subjects and objects as possible in the electric-smart grids. 4B Introduction and use of machine learning algorithms to forecast energy demands (i.e. starting from the energy-demands of micro and mini-grids at district scale) and thus to support companies in better managing their energy-flows and costs. Revision of the paradigm of adaptation of the energy production to the energy consumption, part of the consumption must be now adapted to the production taking into consideration the characteristics of intermittent renewable energy sources. 4C Management systems integration to allow SMEs to increase the effectiveness of alternative energy installations by making data-driven decisions and optimising the usage of energy. SMEs that have invested in renewable energy installations currently need tools to efficiently manage green energy solutions and be able to make most of it. The support of green transformation of manufacturing SMEs and the effective management of energy sources could be achieved by implementation of smart industrial energy management software to monitor and control the utilities consumption online.	Energy Mobility Energy Energy

TOPICS ADDRESSED BY THE CALL(III)

Macro-challenge	Challenge description	
of Logistics naths	5A Improving the transport operations, by planning new routes in long-haul international routes, according to ordinary and unplannable delays. I.e. to develop a method able to re-plan a route (when delayed) and minimise the impact of the delay.	Logistics Mobility
	6A Road network maintenance (roads, pavements and signs): extraction of precise information and large amounts of data from different sources and obtain reliable pavement degradation models to allow accurate estimations of the maintenance actions.	Mobility
6 Al for Smart Mobility and pollution	6B Since most people in the world will live in cities by 2050, there is a growing need of improving the public transport and taxi drivers at urban level, especially during the "peak times" (as bad weather, football matches, concerts,) where usually the demand rises while the offer remains the same. To develop an integrated method of machine learning algorithms that allows to map and know where the demand is located (customers that use most the public and private transport services), in order to provide a better service and avoid the use of private vehicles.	Mobility
	6C Pollution forecasting, monitoring and modelling: innovative sensing systems for measuring pollution levels and/or for making projections to support Cities response to the alarming and growing levels of urban air-pollution worldwide.	Mobility
and products linder o	7A Improving current company-services, through the development of products and services under a Web3 perspective. Goal: improving companies interested in developing products and services under a new Web3 Perspective.	All Energy Logistics Mobility



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Beneficiaries

Consortia 2 SMEs: 1 from ICT (AI or BC) & 1 SME from manufacturing, mobility, logistics or energy sectors, officially founded before 31.12.2021 and registered in an EU Member State or country participating in the SMP.

Duration

Each project must be developed from 6 to 9-months after full signature of the contract and must be completed by the 15th of September of 2024 (including the final reporting).

Eligible costs

- ✓ Staff costs for the development and testing /demonstration of the solution and for training the industry partner to use it
- ✓ Technical consultancy if necessary
- ✓ Equipment or consumables needed for developing/testing the solution
- ✓ Travel and accommodation costs between beneficiaries
- ✓ Travel and accommodation costs for the participation to the final event that will be organised by AIBC EUROCLUSTER consortium
- ✓ Any other costs that is necessary for achieving the project objectives.



EVALUATION

Selection

At least 8 consortia (thus, at least 16 companies) will receive financial support.

Evaluation criteria

Section 1: **EXCELLENCE** (max 30 points)

- Ambition: motivation behind the application;
- Innovation: alignement with the objectives and goals of the SMEs involved;
- Coherence: coherence with the selected challenge and contribution derived from the development and/or exploitation of AI and BC applications.

Section 2: IMPLEMENTATION (max 30 points)

- Appropriateness of the consortium & team;
- Coherence with the AIBC objectives and goals;
- Cost-effectiveness of the workplan.

Section 3: IMPACT (max 40 points)

- Green impact of the project;
- Business impact;
- Relevance: contribution to increase the industrial and market relevance;
- Scalability.

TOTAL SCORE achievable: **100 points** (threshold: 70).



TIMFLINE

Opening date: 6 June 2023 Deadline: 12 Sept 2023

Information to applicants: Mid-November 2023

Duration of activities: From signature of the agreement to September 2024 (total project duration ≤ 9 months)







OPENING AND CLOSING DATE

To present your proposal online, through the EU Survey platform.

5 DAYS FROM HERE

(for the accepted applicants) To accept funding agreement terms and conditions via email to aibc@piemonteinnova.it and then to proceede with the agreement signature.

PAYMENT OF THE LUMP-SUM:

20% of total amount (when possible) by first 2 months; 80% of total amount within 60 days from the final sending.

EVALUATION PROCESS Deadlines: 1) 5 Sept. 2023 / Proposal Agreement (*) <u>NEW Date</u>: 12 Sept. 2023 *17:00 Brussels time* submission signature (2) 16 Jan. 2024 5 working days 17:00 Brussels time Acceptance 5/10 working days Eligibility check e-mail 10/30 working days Eligible? **Evaluation process** Selected? Rejection e-mail



SESSION

aibc@piemonteinnova.it

AIBCEUROCLUSTERS

OPEN CALLS

(LUMP-SUM)

Opening date:

6 June 2023

Deadlines:

(1) 5 Sept. 2023 /

(*) NEW Date: 12 Sept. 2023

17:00 Brussels time

(2) 16 Jan. 2024 *17:00 Brussels time*

Contact: aibc@piemonteinnova.it





5K EUR

TRAINING (1)

Trainings, courses, coaching, mentoring, etc. related to AI/BC/twin transition.
WHEN: 2023 - 2024

SERVICES & PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT (*)(2)

15K EUR Tech transfer, IT specialist, use of infrastructures, PoCs, Feasibility studies, business model development. Duration: up to 6 months Defined challenges

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS (1) (2)

2K EUR

For: **EU SMEs and start-ups working on AI & BC technologies** or with competences on these techs.

- •Participation to events related to the project topics (2023 2024) (1)(2)
- •Mission organised by the project to Austin, TX (USA) summer 2024 (2)

PROJECT PROPOSALS (*)

For: Consortia of at least 2 EU SMEs and start-ups 1 from AI / BC technologies, and 1 from the manufacturing, mobility, logistics or energy sectors.

- •Develop new or improved digital (using AI & BC) and environmentally friendly products and services.
- •Test / demonstrate AI & BC solutions for digital / green transformation and resiliency. Duration: 6 to 9 months, starting in October 2023.

Defined Challenges.



Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or EISMEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



INFORMATION & MATCHMAKING PLATFORM



AIBC Info&Match Platform

https://www.b2match.com/e/aibc-infomatch

Contact and organise meetings with potential partners, service providers and training providers

Keep updated on potential international events linked to AI and Blockchain

Check out the FAQ related to the Open Calls

Let's have a look together!







Information about the call: aibc@piemonteinnova.it



Project: 101074645 – AIBC EUROCLUSTERS – SMP-COSME-2021-CLUSTER