

Open call for STARRISE project promoters and participants

1. What is STARRISE and what are the objectives of this call?

The [STARRISE project](#) is funded under the [Interregional Innovation Investments \(I3 Instrument\)](#) to foster capacity building and interregional collaboration across continental Europe and Outermost regions. STARRISE is a consortium involving 1 innovation expert partner from Germany and 6 less developed and/or EU outermost regions looking for increased collaboration and innovation: Latvia, Canary Islands (Spain), Norte (Portugal), Martinique (France), Thessaly (Greece), Nord-Vest (Romania).

STARRISE supports and promotes the capacity of SMEs and stakeholders to develop projects that contribute for innovation in the Agri-food and Logistics sectors.

With this open call, STARRISE will support a selected group of SMEs and stakeholders to:

- Develop their capacity to address challenges and identify new market opportunities taking stock of interregional collaboration.
- Generate and mature innovate ideas to be more resilient towards present and upcoming challenges.
- Cooperate with stakeholders to identify new regional technological domains and market opportunities.
- Develop and join collaborative innovation projects with other regions to meet common challenges.
- Identify and apply to private and public funding opportunities for their innovations.

To participate in this call, applicants may either submit their own innovative idea (to be further developed in collaboration with others and support from STARRISE) or join a project already available in the STARRISE catalogue (more info in section 4).

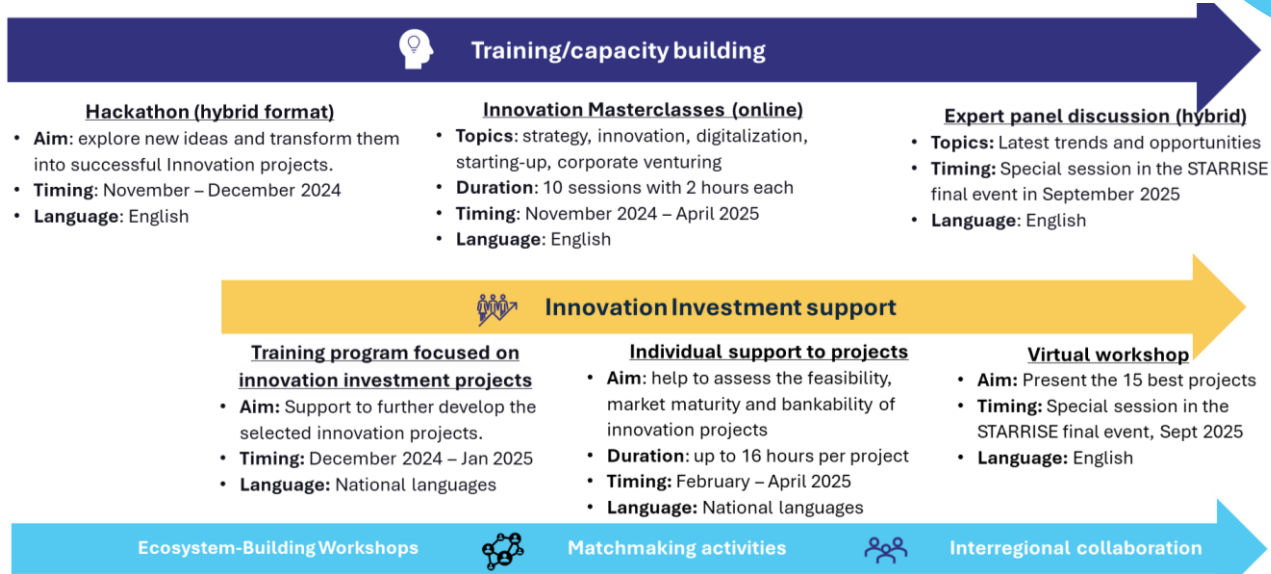
2. What happens if my application is selected? The STARRISE Journey

Applicants selected under this call will join the STARRISE Journey, which takes place between [October 2024 and September 2025](#). It consists of a mix of training (online and face-to-face), events with experts, personalised support for the development of innovation projects, expert mentorship and networking opportunities with stakeholders from the same region and from other regions. Throughout this process, the most promising ideas will be supported by the project experts to seek complementary collaboration with others and increase their chances of investment.

What are the benefits of STARRISE for my organisation?

- **Capacity building:** Improve your innovation, cooperation, business and investment skills through our specialized capacity-building programs.
- **Tailored Support:** Obtain personalized support and consultation from experts to develop joint concepts and projects, increasing the chances of success.
- **Funding Opportunities:** Increase your knowledge and get guidance about EU funding mechanisms and other public and private funding options for your regional innovation projects.
- **Collaboration and Networking:** Engage with experts and innovators, identify and explore complementary strengths and opportunities for partnerships in your region and other regions.

The STARRISE Journey entails the following main components:



Important remarks:

- The activities of the training/capacity building component will be held in English.
- The activities of the innovation investment support component can be provided in English or in the languages of the STARRISE partners: French, Latvian, Greek, Romanian, Portuguese, Spanish.

3. Who can apply?

The call is for SMEs and other organizations from the Agri-food and Logistics sectors or from other sectors, who have an idea or want to join an innovation investment project. Organisations from other sectors (e.g. ICT) can apply as contributors to the agri-food or logistics sector.

An application can be submitted by an SME, by another organisation, or by a team of organisations. The call is targeted at less developed and/or EU outermost regions, even if they partner with more developed regions.

4. What type of projects can we submit under the STARRISE call?

Applicants have 2 options:

- Launch their own project idea or identify a challenge that the applicant wants to address through a new solution. In this case, applicants are requested to provide information about the project idea/challenge; resources; degree of innovation; results and impact; TRL and IRL.
- Join an existing project. STARRISE partners have identified innovation projects in the agri-food and logistics sectors that are open for collaboration from SMEs or other organisations. Please consult the STARRISE projects catalogue [HERE](#) before submitting the application. In this case, applicants are requested to identify the project they wish to join and provide information on the relevance, contribution and potential impact of the project for the organisation.

5. How to apply?

Applicants shall complete and submit the online form available on the [PAGE OF THE CALL](#) in the STARRISE website until the 27th September 2024, 18h CEST (Central European Summer Time) (call extended until the 31th of October 2024, 18H CEST).

Applications can be submitted in English or in one of the languages spoken by STARRISE partners: French, Greek, Latvian, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish.

6. Eligibility and evaluation criteria:

Eligibility criteria for applicants:

- The applicant must be registered in a region/country of the European Economic Area.
- The applicant must apply for a project in the sector agri-food or logistics.

Selection/Evaluation criteria for the innovation project:

A. If the applicant is applying with an own idea:

- Geographic origin of the applicant:
 - Preference given to applicants from the regions involved in STARRISE
 - Second preference given to applicants from less developed and/or EU outermost regions.
- Description of the innovation idea/challenge:
 - Relevance and innovation of the idea presented.
 - Expected results and impact.
 - Potential for interregional collaboration.
 - Technology Readiness Level (TRL) and Investment Readiness Level (IRL) score = $TRL \times 3 + IRL$

B. If the applicant is joining a team/project with more organisations:

- Geographic composition of the team: At least 1 participant needs to be from a less developed and/or EU outermost regions
- Project selected by the applicant:
 - Relevance of the project for the applicant.
 - Expected results and impact for the applicant organisation.
 - Contribution of the applicant for interregional collaboration.
 - Technology Readiness Level (TRL) and Investment Readiness Level (IRL) score (of the project) = $TRL \times 3 + IRL$

Preferential criterion (for applicants): Ability to communicate in English (N.B. Some of the STARRISE journey events will be held in EN, so at least 1 member of the applicant should be able to communicate in EN).

Furthermore, the STARRISE consortium will consider the following criteria in the selection of applications to ensure balance between regions and sectors:

- At least 30% of the selected projects must be focused on the Agri-food sector.
- At least 30% of the selected projects must be focused on the Logistics sector.
- At least 5 applications must be selected in each of the 6 partner regions.

7. Timeline

- ∞ 27th September 2024: Deadline for submission of applications (new date: 31th of October 2024)
- ∞ 28th September to 3rd October 2024: Evaluation and selection (new dates: 01st of November to 6th of November 2024)
- ∞ 4th October 2024: Information to applicants. Onboarding selected applicants (new date: 7th of November 2024)
- ∞ 8th October 2024: Kick off STARRISE Journey (scheduling of Masterclasses) (new date: 11th of November 2024)

8. More information and contact

Please consult the information in www.starriseproject.eu, namely the tab “open call”, where you can access the online application form. and one page describing the STARRISE journey.

If you have further questions, please contact one of the [STARRISE partners](#) or submit a [form](#) via our website.