

# **Block.IS**

## **Annex 1: Block.IS Acceleration Process #3 Open Call & Guide for Applicants**

**V1.00**

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms	
AWU	Annual Work Unit
Block.IS	Blockchain Innovation Spaces
CET	Central European Time
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
F2F	Face to Face
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
RTD	Research and Technological Development
SME	Small and Medium-sized enterprises (including start-ups)
MVP	Minimum Viable Product
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
VAT	Value Added Tax
WEF	World Economic Forum

# 1 Introduction

This document provides information regarding the Block.IS Acceleration Process #3. All associated Annexes must be additionally considered for the submission of a Proposal.

Block.IS has, so far, organized 2 Acceleration Processes and has selected 90 projects to enter the 1<sup>st</sup> or the 2<sup>nd</sup> INNOVATE Phase. After the INNOVATE Phases completion, following technical evaluation, pitching and filtering process assisted by external experts, 46 projects (more than 50%) entered the EXPERIMENT Phase #1 and #2 and finally 20 have entered/will enter the COMMERCIALIZE phase.

The Block.IS Acceleration Process #3 aims to provide a second chance to the projects that have completed successfully the INNOVATE Phase of either Acceleration Process #1 or #2 but did not manage to enter EXPERIMENT Phase #1 or #2, mainly due to budget constraints. Under this viewpoint, Block.IS introduces an Experiment Phase #3, which aims to select among them, 5 projects with maximum commercial/ impact potential and provide to each one of them acceleration services and a voucher of 12.000 EUROS as financial support to run the EXPERIMENT and enter the market. Moreover, the project that will manage to show the maximum market potential and impact at European level will receive an additional prize of at least 6.000 EUROS.

## 1.1 Funding Scheme

Block.IS funding is **results' driven**, provided as vouchers in a lump sum way. As such, there is no need for a traditional administrative-justification system (e.g. counting hourly dedication or calculating workload), but getting the funding is associated with the full achievement of the relevant milestone.

The selected SMEs will be funded as follows<sup>1</sup>:

*Table 1 Acceleration Process #3 funding schema<sup>2</sup>*

Number of SMEs	Funding (in EUROS)	When (in Months)	Condition / Event
5	4.000	End of M1	After successful evaluation of EXPERIMENT phase #3 preparation
5	8.000	End of M3	After successful completion of the Acceleration Programme #3
1	6.000	End of M3	Additional prize for the best Acceleration Programme #3 project

## 1.2 Timeline – Acceleration Process #3

Submission to the Open Call of the Acceleration Programme #3 (i.e. Open Call #3) will be enabled on the **06<sup>th</sup> of August 2021** and will end on the **2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2021 at 17:00CET** (Brussels time).

Below are presented the dates for the different phases. The opening and closing dates of each phase can be subject to change in case of any modifications in the project's schedule.

<sup>1</sup> The Block.IS consortium retains the right to change the prize, which will be at least 6.000 EUROS. Yet, it should be noticed that the cumulative maximum amount of direct funding that an SME may receive via Block.IS is 60.000 EUROS via any mean (e.g. open call, challenges, cluster missions, etc)

<sup>2</sup> Payments will be released no later than thirty (30) natural days after the notification by the Contractor.

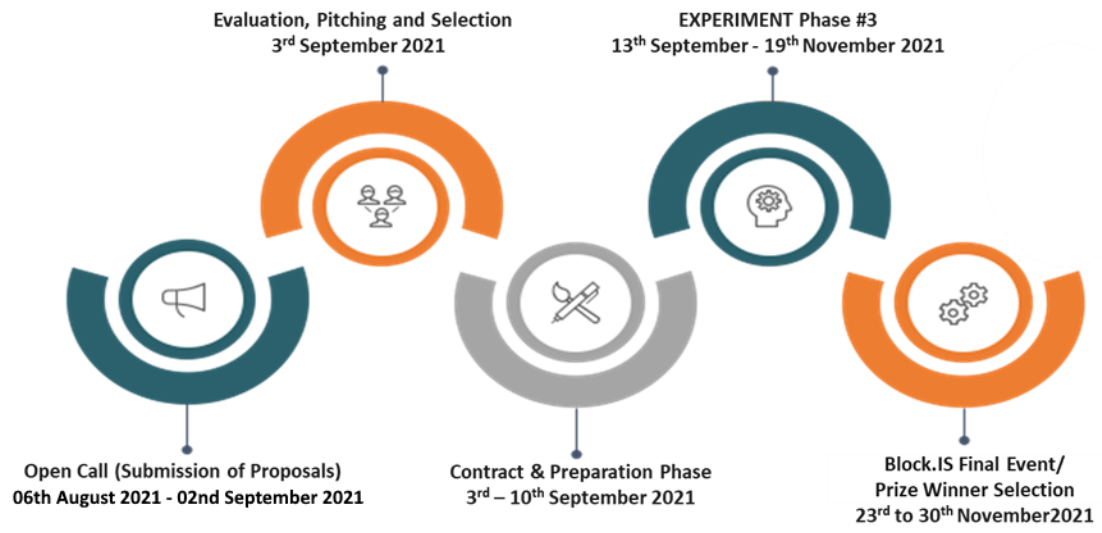


Figure 1: Block.IS Acceleration Process #3 timeline

## 2 General information

### 2.1 Means of submission

The F6S platform (<https://www.f6s.com/block.is>) will be the entry point for all proposals' submission to Block.IS 3<sup>rd</sup> Acceleration Process. Submissions received by any other channel will be automatically discarded. Documents required in subsequent phases will be submitted via dedicated channel, which will be indicated by Block.IS consortium during the sub-granted projects execution.

### 2.2 Language

**English** is the only official language for Block.IS. Submissions done in any other language will not be eligible and will not be evaluated. English is also the only official language during the whole execution of the Block.IS programme.

### 2.3 Documentation formats

Any document requested in any of the phases must be submitted electronically in PDF format without restrictions for printing.

### 2.4 Data protection

In order to process and evaluate applications, Block.IS will need to collect Personal and Industrial Data. F6S Network Limited, as the Project Coordinator will act as Data Controller for data submitted through the F6S platform for these purposes. The F6S platform's system design and operational procedures ensure that data is managed in compliance with The General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). Each applicant will accept the F6S terms to ensure coverage.

Please note that Block.IS requests the minimum information needed to deliver the evaluation procedures or the acceleration program. Annexes 6: Bank account information, and Annex 7: Sub-grant Agreement Template, are provided for reference and will only be requested if the SME is accepted in the acceleration program.

Please refer to <https://www.f6s.com/terms> to check F6S platform data privacy policy and security measures.

### 2.5 Origin of the funds

Any selected proposer will sign a dedicated Sub-Grantee Funding Agreement with the Block.IS consortium. **The funds attached to the Sub-Grantee Funding Agreement come directly from the funds of the European Project Block.IS funded itself by the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME), and remain therefore property of the EU until the payment of the balance, whose management rights have been transferred to the project partners in Block.IS via European Commission Grant Agreement Number 824509.**

As it can be seen in the Sub-Grantee Funding Agreement template (Annex 7), this relation between the sub-grantees and the European Commission through the Block.IS project carries a set of obligations to the sub-grantees with the European Commission. It is the task of the sub-grantees to accomplish them, and of the Block.IS consortium partners to inform about them.

## 3 Proposal Eligibility Criteria

The Block.IS invites all SMEs that have successfully completed the Block.IS Innovation Phase of either Open Call #1 or #2 but did not enter the relevant Experiment Phase to submit a proposal to the Block.IS Acceleration Process #3.

### 3.1 SME Definition and Eligibility Criteria

The Legal status of the participant should comply with the SME definition of the European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC<sup>3</sup> and the SME user guide<sup>4</sup>. As a summary, the criteria which define an SME are:

- a. Independent (not linked or owned by another enterprise), in accordance to Recommendation 2003/361/EC.
- b. Headcount in Annual Work Unit (AWU) less than 250.
- c. Annual turnover less or equal to €50 million OR annual balance sheet total less or equal to €43 million.

The SME is considered eligible for Block.IS Acceleration Process #3 if it still complies with ALL the following rules:

- i. At Block.IS Acceleration Process #3 submission deadline, it remains an SME as defined above.
- ii. It is a legal entity established and based in one of the EU Member States or an H2020 Associated country as defined in H2020 rules for participation<sup>5</sup>:
- iii. It is a technology provider or technology adopter/user providing innovation in the agrifood, logistics and/or finance sector.
- iv. Start-ups that do not have yet annual turnover or balance sheets are also considered eligible given that they fulfil the criteria (a) and (b) above at submission time.
- v. In case an SME is awarded a sub-project, it will remain eligible even if, at a certain point during the sub-project execution, it does not fulfil criteria (b) or (c).

Please note that a signed version of **Annex 4: Honour Declaration** and **Annex 5: SME Declaration** are mandatory for a proposal submission.

### 3.2 Proposal Eligibility Criteria

The following eligibility criteria must apply:

- i. **An SME may participate only if it has successfully completed the Block.IS INNOVATE Phase of either Block.IS Acceleration Process #1 or #2 but did not enter the relevant EXPERIMENT Phase.**
- ii. **Each SME may submit only one (1) proposal at Block.IS Acceleration Process #3. Multiple submissions is a disqualify factor.** In case an SME submits more than one proposals, all proposals that have been submitted by this SME will be automatically excluded from the evaluation process.

<sup>3</sup> European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:124:0036:0041:en:PDF>

<sup>4</sup> SME definition [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/files/sme\\_definition/sme\\_user\\_guide\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/files/sme_definition/sme_user_guide_en.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Association to Horizon 2020 is governed by Article 7 of the H2020 Regulation. The list of associated countries is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/hi/3cp/h2020-hi-list-ac\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cp/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf)



- iii. **Only one (1) proposal may be submitted per successful Block.IS INNOVATE Phase project.** In case an SME that fulfils the eligibility criterion (i) has split in two or more SMEs, either independent or linked, only the SME that still has the original VAT number may participate.
- iv. **It is considered as Conflict of Interest and the relevant proposals will be automatically considered not eligible, in case an individual participates, controls, submits or is associated in any way with more than one proposals.** As indicative example, without excluding other cases, it is not allowed for an individual to be in the project team or the advisory board of more than one proposal. Moreover, it is not allowed for an individual to have a legal, administrative, technical, or financial position or capacity in more than one applicant SMEs or is in the position to access or influence in any way more than one proposal.
- v. **The maximum amount of direct funding that an SME may receive via Block.IS is 60.000 EUROS via any mean (e.g. open call, hackathon, cluster missions, etc).**

## 4 Block.IS Acceleration Process #3 Open Call

Block.IS has selected 90 proposals from the Acceleration Process #1 and #2. Out of them, 87 projects have successfully completed the relevant INNOVATE Phase #1 or #2 and 46 have entered the relevant EXPERIMENT Phase #1 or #2. This call offers an extra mini-EXPERIMENT Phase #3 of **10 weeks** and targets the remaining 41 projects that successfully completed the INNOVATE Phase #1 or #2 but due to Block.IS budget constraints did not enter the relevant EXPERIMENT Phase.

Block.IS Acceleration Process #3 aims to select the top 5 projects with maximum commercial/impact potential and provide to each one of them acceleration services and a grant of 12.000€ as financial support to enter the market. Moreover, the project that will manage to show the maximum market potential and impact at European level will receive an additional prize of at least 6.000€. It should be underlined that the final number of proposals entering each phase might be different e.g. in case of any Force Majeure such as any unforeseeable exceptional situation.

### 4.1 Open Call Preparation

#### 4.1.1 Open Call #3 publication

The Open call will be published on the dates shown in section §1.3. It will be supported by:

- **Annex 1: Open Call & Guidelines for Applicants**, this document.
- **Annex 2: Proposal Template**, an online application form, available at F6S platform (<https://www.f6s.com/block.is>).
- **Annex 4: Honour Declaration**, which declares that all conditions of the acceleration process are accepted by an SME legal representative.
- **Annex 5: SME Declaration**, which evaluates the status of the SMEs participating at an acceleration process.
- **Annex 6: Bank account information**, which collects information on the applicant(s)' bank account where the Block.IS payments will be sent to.
- **Annex 7: Sub-grant Agreement Template**, which provides a template of the sub-grant agreement that the successful applicants will be requested to sign.
- **Frequently Asked Questions & answers** published at the community feed (<https://www.f6s.com/block.is>).

#### 4.1.2 Applicants Registration

Interested applicants should register at the Block.IS F6S page (<https://www.f6s.com/block.is>). This will be the central interface for managing the proposal applications for the remainder of the open calls.

#### 4.1.3 Proposal Preparation

Please follow the steps:

1. Only SMEs that fulfil all eligibility criteria as described in section 3 should submit a proposal.
2. For the proposal preparation, the applicants are requested to apply online and answer to all mandatory questions (with no exception) at: <https://www.f6s.com/block.is>
3. Applicants that do not accept the terms and conditions and do not sign and upload to the f6s platform the completed **Annex 4: Honour Declaration** and **Annex 5: SME Declaration** will not be eligible.

4. Be concrete and concise. Questions have characters limitation. Please examine all the acceleration process/ open call documents and attend the various online and physical events promoted by the Block.IS projects (<https://blockis.eu/>).
5. It is highly recommended to submit your proposal well before the deadline. If the applicant discovers an error in the proposal, and provided the call deadline has not passed, the applicant may request the F6S Block.IS team to re-submit the proposal (for this purpose please contact us at support@f6s.com). **However, Block.IS is not committed that resubmission in time will be feasible in case the request for resubmission is not received by the F6S Block.IS team at least 48 hours before the call deadline.**

*It is strongly recommended not to wait until the last minute to submit the proposal. Failure of the proposal to arrive in time for any reason, including network communications delays or working from multiple browsers or multiple browser windows, is not acceptable as an extenuating circumstance. The time of receipt of the application as recorded by the submission system will be definitive.*

#### 4.1.4 Proposals reception

Submissions will be done ONLY via the F6S platform on <https://www.f6s.com/block.is>. A full list of proposers will be drafted containing their basic information for statistical purposes and clarity (which will be also shared with EC for transparency).

The application reception will close as indicated in section 1.2 “Timeline – Acceleration Process #3”. There will not be any deadline extensions unless there is a Force Majeure situation (e.g. a major problem caused by the F6S platform and not by the proposers, makes the system unavailable for a long period).

## 4.2 Open Call Selection

### 4.2.1 Step 1.1: Eligibility Check

An automatic filtering to discard non-eligible proposals will follow the short list. Eligibility criteria check will verify:

- a. The proposing entity is a legal entity eligible for EC funding under the rules of H2020 [Y/N]
- b. The proposing entity is an SME and fulfils the eligibility criteria as defined in section 3.1 “SME Definition and Eligibility Criteria” [Y/N]
- c. The proposing entity and proposal fulfils the eligibility criteria as defined in section 3.2 “Proposal Eligibility Criteria” [Y/N]
- d. Is the proposal written in the English Language [Y/N]?
- e. All required documentation: **Annex 4: Honour Declaration and Annex 5: SME Declaration are completed and submitted correctly** [Y/N]
- f. The proposal has successfully completed either Block.IS INNOVATION Phase #1 or #2, but due to budget limitations did not enter either Block.IS EXPERIMENT Phase #1 or #2 [Y/N]

Proposals being marked as non-eligible will get a rejection letter including the reasons (a to e) for being catalogued as non-eligible. No further feedback on the process will be given.

## 4.2.2 Step 1.2: Initial Evaluation, Ranking and Final Selection

All proposals that have passed the eligibility check will receive a notification (either via F6S or via email) that they are invited to the **Block.IS Acceleration Program Selection Virtual Event**. The event will take place via teleconference and is scheduled for September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021<sup>6</sup>. During this phase each participating SME should clarify the details of the sub-project, including both the technical and the business parameters, the potential economic/business impact on the agrifood, the logistics and/or the fintech domain and the European dimension/scale.

During the **Block.IS Acceleration Program Selection Virtual Event**, each SME will have 8 minutes (strict) to pitch for their idea /proposal. The pitching should cover (at least):

- Proposal Idea & Technological/Business Excellence
- Technological and Business Readiness. Progress since the relevant INNOVATE phase
- Potential Impact at local and European level
- SME team capability to turn the idea into successful product/service

The pitching audience will be limited to:

- A committee of three (3) external experts
- The Block.IS consortium, potentially including European Commission officers
- Other SME beneficiaries that have been invited to virtual event
- Professionals/Executives invited by the Block.IS consortium.

At the end of the pitching session, the three external experts will score each idea/proposal with a mark between 1 (fail) and 10 (excellent). The value of the score of each committee member will be equal and the final evaluation score will be the average of the three individual scores. Then, the applicants will be ranked based on their evaluation scores. In case two or more idea/proposals have equal final scores, the external experts' committee will decide on the final ranking based on each idea/proposal impact potential and probability to achieve the results.

At the end of the **Acceleration Program Selection Virtual Event** the project coordinator will announce the 5 sub-projects that will enter the Acceleration Programme #3.

## 4.2.3 Step 1.3: Contract Preparation & Signature

After the selection of the top 5 projects, the Block.IS coordinator will start the contract preparation in collaboration with the proposals' coordinator that have been evaluated in the short list. Contract preparation will go via an administrative and financial checking. On a case by case approach, a phone call or teleconference may be needed for clarification.

The objective of the contract preparation is fulfilling the legal requirements between the Block.IS consortium and the applicant. To validate the status information of the SME, the following documents will be required:

- **SMEs declaration:** signed and stamped. In case the applicant declares being non-autonomous, the balance sheet and profit & loss accounts (with annexes) for the last period for upstream and downstream organizations should also be provided.

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<sup>6</sup> Please note that the date may be modified. The exact date will be fixed within August 2021. In case of too high number of eligible proposals the Virtual Event may split to more than one day.

- **Status Information Form.** In case this is not a start-up, it includes the headcount (AWU), balance, profit & loss accounts of the latest closed financial year and the relation, upstream and downstream, of any linked or partner company. In case it is a start-up, legal document of the official founding date.
- **Legal existence.** Company Register, Official Gazette or other official document per country showing the name of the organisation, the legal address and registration number and a copy of a document proving VAT registration (in case the VAT number does not show on the registration extract or its equivalent).
- In cases where the **number of employees and/or the ownership is not clearly identified:** any other supporting documents which demonstrate headcount and ownership such as payroll details, annual reports, national regional association records, etc. In case it is a start-up, legal document of the official founding date and declaration of ownership.
- **SME Bank account information:** The account where the funds will be transferred will be indicated via a form signed by the SME legal representative and the bank representative. The account should be a business bank account of the SME.

It should be emphasised that each **SME should provide at contract preparation time a valid VAT<sup>7</sup>. Failure to provide the VAT number will automatically result in proposal rejection.**

The request, by Block.IS consortium, of the above documentation will be done including deadlines. In general, the sub-project contract preparation should be concluded within 2 weeks. An additional week may be provided by the Block.IS coordinator in case of a significant reasoning. In case negotiations have not been concluded within the above period, the proposal is automatically rejected and the next proposal in the ranking list is invited.

At the end of the negotiation phase, the **sub-grantee funding agreement** will be signed between the Block.IS Consortium represented by its coordinator (F6S) and the Budget Holder (VOICT) and the beneficiary SME.

#### 4.2.4 Step 1.4: Completion of the EXPERIMENT phase #3 preparation

By the 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2021, the projects that have signed the contract and entered the Acceleration Process #3 should provide:

- An **Initial Business Plan** document as first deliverable
- A financial statement of type F3.1 (template will be provided) requesting the 4.000€ voucher for entering the Acceleration Program.

The evaluation of the business plan will result in the successful completion of the EXPERIMENT phase #3 preparation. This will result in releasing the 1<sup>st</sup> payment of the 4.000€ voucher.

Payments will be released no later than thirty (30) natural days after the notification by the Contractor; The Block.IS coordinator and treasurer after receiving the above documents and cross-checking the list of participants, will proceed with the payment of the voucher (provided in a lump sum mode).

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<sup>7</sup> To be checked at European Commission services such as [http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/vies/](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/vies/).

## 4.2.5 Step 1.5: Acceleration Program implementation

After the completion of the EXPERIMENT phase #3 preparation phase, the 5 projects will enter a mini-EXPERIMENT phase #3. The duration of this phase will be 10 weeks, covering from 13<sup>th</sup> of September till 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2021.

During this phase each SME will be assigned one business mentor. The mentor will guide each SME during the Acceleration program, share their knowledge and experience with mentees and help them structure their business goals, reach their objectives and prepare the final deliverable “Business and Market Plan”. **The “Business and Market Plan” will be a self-contained deliverable and will be evaluated during the Block.IS Final Event.** The mentor will also suggest relevant partnerships and introductions to specific companies, people, events to attend and other business development opportunities that could help commercialize the product. The mentor will come from Consortium partners’ organizations, as well as from the partners’ network if some valuable skillset and experience they could bring in is needed. Each SME or start-up can expect to receive up to 3 hours of individual mentorship during the 2 and half months Acceleration program.

## 4.3 Open Call Completion

### 4.3.1 Step 1.6: Final Event Evaluation

The week starting 22<sup>rd</sup> of November 2021, the Block.IS **Final Event** will take place<sup>8</sup>. **It is mandatory that at least one SME participant appears at the event and participates in the evaluation and pitching activities.**

At least three (3) days before the Final Even, each SME should provide the “**Business and Market Plan**” deliverable. During the Block.IS Final Event, each SME will have a f2f meeting with a committee to evaluate the deliverable. The committee will consist of three (3) external experts, while one (1) member of the Block.IS consortium will participate at the evaluation meeting as moderator.

In parallel to the f2f meeting, each SME will have the opportunity to demonstrate their product/prototype to an evaluation committee. Moreover, each SME will have 10 minutes (strict) to pitch for their product/service/prototype. The pitching should cover (at least):

- Proposal Idea
- Technological and Business Readiness.
- Business and Commercial Achievements

The pitching audience will be limited to:

- A committee of three (3) external experts;
- The Block.IS consortium, potentially including European Commission officers;
- The other SME beneficiaries that have been invited to the event;
- Professionals/Executives invited by the Block.IS consortium.

**The successful f2f evaluation of the deliverable and the pitching at the Block.IS Final Event will result in successful completion of the Acceleration Program.**

At the end of the event, the three external experts will meet privately and select the SME that will receive the **Acceleration Programme Prize of at least 6.000 EUROS.**

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<sup>8</sup> The Final Event will be a physical meeting if possible. The place will be defined at least 1 month in advance.

### 4.3.2 Step 1.7: Final Compensation

Just after the Block.IS Final Event, and within **10 working days**, all sub-project coordinators that have successfully completed the Acceleration Program should send to the Block.IS coordinator:

- A set of 10-15 slides based on their presentation in the Block.IS Final Event.
- A financial statement F3.2 (template will be provided) requesting the 8.000€ voucher of the Acceleration Program (given that this does not exceed the maximum value of 60.000€ that each and any SME may receive from Block.IS)
- The winner of the Acceleration Programme Prize will also add the prize voucher.

The Block.IS coordinator and treasurer after receiving the above documents and cross-checking the list of participants, will proceed with the payment (provided in a lump sum mode), no later than thirty (30) natural days after the notification by the Contractor

**In case an SME, either**

- a) has not participated in the Block.IS Final Event, or**
- b) has not successfully completed the “Business and Market Plan” deliverable evaluation or**
- c) has not participated at the Final Event pitching event or**
- d) has not submitted the financial statements within the foreseen timeframe,**

**their sub-grantee contract will be automatically terminated, and no compensation will be provided.**

## 5 Responsibilities of beneficiaries

The selected SMEs are indirectly beneficiaries of European Commission funding. As such, they are responsible for the proper use of the funding and ensure that the recipients comply with obligations under H2020 specific requirements as described in Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) [7]. The obligations that are applicable to the recipients include<sup>9</sup>:

### 5.1 Conflict of Interest

The beneficiary SMEs must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the sub-project is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests').

They must formally notify to the Block.IS coordinator without delay any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation. The Block.IS coordinator may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

If the sub-contract consortium member breaches any of its obligations, the sub-contract may be automatically terminated. Moreover, costs may be rejected.

### 5.2 Data Protection & Confidentiality

During implementation of the sub-project and for four years after the end of the sub-project, the parties must keep confidential any data, documents or other material (in any form) that is identified as confidential at sub-contract signing time ('confidential information').

If a beneficiary SME requests, the Commission and the Block.IS consortium may agree to keep such information confidential for an additional period beyond the initial four years. This will be explicitly stated at the sub-contract.

If information has been identified as confidential during the sub-project execution or only orally, it will be considered to be confidential only if this is accepted by the Block.IS coordinator and confirmed in writing within 15 days of the oral disclosure. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may use confidential information only to implement the Agreement.

The sub-project consortium may disclose confidential information to the Block.IS consortium and to the selected reviewers, who will be bound by a specific Non-Disclosure Agreement.

### 5.3 Promoting the action and give visibility to the EU funding

The beneficiary SMEs must promote the sub-project, the Block.IS project and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner and to highlight the financial support of the EC.

Unless the European Commission or the Block.IS coordinator requests or agrees otherwise or unless it is impossible, any communication activity related to the action (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.), any publicity, including at a conference or seminar or any type of information or

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<sup>9</sup> The obligations described here are not binding and may be modified, refined or additional obligations may be inserted during the sub-project negotiation if needed.



promotional material (brochure, leaflet, poster, presentation etc.), and any infrastructure, equipment and major results funded by the grant must:

- (a) display the EU emblem;
- (b) display the Block.IS logo and
- (c) include the following text:

For communication activities: *“This project has indirectly received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under project Block.IS (grant agreement No 824509)”*.

For infrastructure, equipment and major results: *“This [infrastructure][equipment][insert type of result] is part of a sub-project that has indirectly received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under project Block.IS (grant agreement No 824509)”*.

When displayed in association with a logo, the European emblem should be given appropriate prominence. This obligation to use the European emblem in respect of projects to which the EC contributes implies no right of exclusive use. It is subject to general third-party use restrictions which do not permit the appropriation of the emblem, or of any similar trademark or logo, whether by registration or by any other means. Under these conditions, the Beneficiary is exempted from the obligation to obtain prior permission from the EC to use the emblem. Further detailed information on the EU emblem can be found on the Europa web page.

Any publicity made by the beneficiary SME in respect of the project, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, must specify that it reflects only the author’s views and that the EC or Block.IS project is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

The EC and the Block.IS consortium shall be authorised to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, the following information:

- the name of the beneficiary SME;
- contact address of the beneficiary SME;
- the general purpose of the project;
- the amount of the financial contribution foreseen for the project; after the final payment, and the amount of the financial contribution actually received;
- the geographic location of the activities carried out;
- the list of dissemination activities and/or of patent (applications) relating to foreground;
- the details/references and the abstracts of scientific publications relating to foreground and, if funded within the sub-project, the published version or the final manuscript accepted for publication;
- the publishable reports submitted to Block.IS;
- any picture or any audio-visual or web material provided to the EC and Block.IS in the framework of the project.

The beneficiary SME shall ensure that all necessary authorisations for such publication have been obtained and that the publication of the information by the EC and Block.IS does not infringe any rights of third parties.

Upon a duly substantiated request by the sub-project coordinator on behalf of any sub-project member, the Block.IS consortium, if such permission is provided by the EC, may agree to forego such publicity if disclosure of the information indicated above would risk compromising the beneficiary’s security, academic or commercial interests.

## 5.4 Financial audits and controls

The European Commission (EC) will monitor that Block.IS beneficiaries and the beneficiary SME comply with the conditions for financial support to third parties such as set out in Annex 1 of the Block.IS grant agreement and may take any action foreseen by the grant agreement in case of non-compliance vis à vis the beneficiary concerned.

Moreover, the EC may at any time during the implementation of the Block.IS project and up to 5 (five) years after the end of the Block.IS project, arrange for financial audits to be carried out, by external auditors, or by the EC services themselves including the European Anti-Fraud office (OLAF). The audit procedure shall be deemed to be initiated on the date of receipt of the relevant letter sent by the EC. Such audits may cover financial, systemic and other aspects (such as accounting and management principles) relating to the proper execution of the grant agreement. They shall be carried out on a confidential basis.

The beneficiary SME shall make available directly to the EC all detailed information and data that may be requested by the EC or any representative authorised by it, with a view to verifying that the grant agreement is properly managed and performed in accordance with its provisions and that costs have been charged in compliance with it. This information and data must be precise, complete and effective.

The beneficiary SME shall keep all sub-project deliverables and the originals or, in exceptional cases, duly authenticated copies – including electronic copies – of all documents relating to the sub-project contract for up to five years from the end of the project. These shall be made available to the EC where requested during any audit under the grant agreement.

In order to carry out these audits, the beneficiary SME shall ensure that the EC's services and any external body(ies) authorised by it have on-the-spot access at all reasonable times, notably to the sub-project applicant offices, to its computer data, to its accounting data and to all the information needed to carry out those audits, including information on individual salaries of persons involved in the project. They shall ensure that the information is readily available on the spot at the moment of the audit and, if so requested, that data be handed over in an appropriate form.

On the basis of the findings made during the financial audit, a provisional report shall be drawn up. It shall be sent by the EC or its authorised representative to the beneficiary concerned, which may make observations thereon within one month of receiving it. The Commission may decide not to take into account observations conveyed or documents sent after that deadline. The final report shall be sent to the beneficiary concerned within two months of expiry of the aforesaid deadline.

On the basis of the conclusions of the audit, the EC shall take all appropriate measures which it considers necessary, including the issuing of recovery orders regarding all or part of the payments made by it and the application of any applicable sanction.

The European Court of Auditors shall have the same rights as the EC, notably right of access, for the purpose of checks and audits, without prejudice to its own rules.

In addition, the EC may carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities.

## 5.5 Sub-project Communication

The sub-project coordinator should:

- Provide any notice in writing to the Block.IS project coordinator;
- Notify immediately any change of persons or contact details to the Block.IS coordinator. The address list shall be accessible to all concerned.

## 6 Contacts

The Block.IS consortium will provide information to the applicants via the F6S blog, so that the information (question and answer), will be visible to all participants.

More info at: <https://blockis.eu/>

Apply via: <https://www.f6s.com/block.is>

Online Q&A: <https://www.f6s.com/block.is>

F6S support team: [support@f6s.com](mailto:support@f6s.com)

For extraordinary communication need, please contact the Help Desk: [blockis\\_helpdesk@blockis.eu](mailto:blockis_helpdesk@blockis.eu).

## 7 References

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- [7] "Digital Innovation Initiatives based on European Networks of Competence Centres in H2020".