



# "MINE THE GAP" OPEN CALL #1 GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 873149

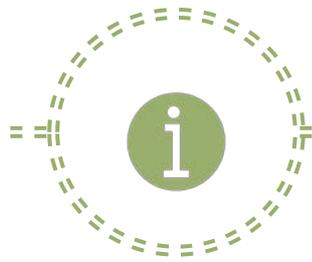
**Topic: H2020-INNOSUP-01-2018-2020**

## Index

<b>1.</b>	<b>ABOUT MINE.THE.GAP .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>SECTORS, VALUE CHAIN AND TOPICS TO BE FUNDED.....</b>	<b>6</b>
a.	TYPE OF VOUCHERS.....	8
b.	Business support services .....	8
c.	TOPICS TO BE FUNDED .....	9
<b>3.</b>	<b>WHO MAY APPLY &amp; ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>FUNDING CONDITIONS .....</b>	<b>20</b>
a.	ELIGIBLE COSTS .....	21
b.	PAYMENT SCHEME.....	21
<b>5.</b>	<b>MANDATORY DOCUMENTS FOR THE PROPOSALS TO BE ELIGIBLE .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>EVALUATION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES .....</b>	<b>23</b>
a.	EVALUATION CRITERIA.....	23
b.	EVALUATION PROCESS:.....	24
c.	TIMELINE AND DEADLINES.....	25
<b>7.</b>	<b>HOW TO APPLY AND HOW TO FIND CONSORTIUM PARTNERS.....</b>	<b>26</b>
a.	HOW TO APPLY .....	26
b.	HOW TO FIND CONSORTIUM PARTNERS .....	26
<b>8.</b>	<b>MONITORING PROCEDURES .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE GRANT AGREEMENT .....</b>	<b>28</b>
a.	FUNDING DECISIONS.....	28
b.	REDRESS PROCEDURE .....	28
c.	DATA PROTECTION.....	29
d.	RESPONSABILITIES OF VOUCHER BENEFICIARIES .....	29
	Conflict of Interest.....	30
	Confidentiality.....	30
	Promoting the action and give visibility to the EU funding .....	30
<b>10.</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>32</b>



a.	DATA MANAGEMENT.....	32
b.	FINAL AUDITS AND CONTROL .....	32
c.	CONTACT POINTS .....	33
<b>APPENDIX I: EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS .....</b>		<b>35</b>
<b>APPENDIX II: KEY TECHNOLOGIES TO APPLY AS ‘PROVIDERS’ .....</b>		<b>43</b>
<b>APPENDIX III: HOW TO APPLY FOR MINE.THE.GAP FUNDING.....</b>		<b>45</b>
1.	Apply to MINE.THE.GAP funding .....	45
2.	Application process .....	45
<b>APPENDIX IV: HOW TO REGISTER ON THE MTG COLLABORATION PLATFORM .....</b>		<b>50</b>
1.	Find partners on MINE.THE.GAP.....	50
2.	Registration process .....	50
3.	Matchmaking.....	54



## 1. ABOUT MINE.THE.GAP

MINE.THE.GAP is an innovation project funded by the European Commission as part of the INNOSUP programme.

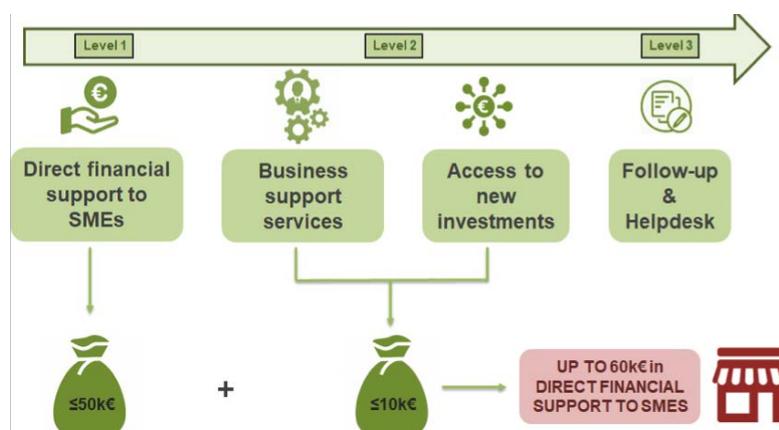
The main ambition of MINE.THE.GAP project is to provide SMEs, from the raw materials and mining sectors, with the necessary tools to improve their competitiveness, boost their growth and implement new services, solutions and/or products through cross-sectorial and cross-regional collaboration.

MINE.THE.GAP initiative is a fund based for the attribution of Vouchers to reinforce synergies between raw materials mining SMEs and providers from the existing fields of ICT, Circular Economy, Resources Efficiency and Advanced Manufacturing.

MINE.THE.GAP provides direct financial support to SMEs through innovation vouchers. Two competitive calls will be launched aiming to select the best projects to carry out strategic plan's preparation, validation of ideas, proof of concept and demonstration activities. The expected TRLs for activities funded under the calls lie between TRL6-7 for design and implementation of a prototype/proof-of-concept and TRL7-8 for demo activities.

Additionally, MINE.THE.GAP will offer business support services for the selected projects to enhance innovation capacities, promote technology transfer and commercialisation, and to boost SMEs internationalisation.

The following image represents the main innovation support offered to the awarded SMEs through MINE.THE.GAP open calls:



**FIGURE 1-MAIN SCHEME OF MINE.THE.GAP CALL. SOURCE: ICAMCYL**



The total amount of direct financial support for SMEs in this Call, under MINE.THE.GAP is 1,5 Million of euros.

The applications must be submitted digitally using the platform MINE.THE.GAP, that can be found following this URL <https://h2020-minethegap.eu>

**The current document contains all the necessary information related to the first MINE.THE.GAP open competitive call.**

## 2. SECTORS, VALUE CHAIN AND TOPICS TO BE FUNDED



The aim of the MINE.THE.GAP Open Call is to provide an opportunity to European SMEs in the target raw materials and mining sectors to develop products, technologies, solutions and services in collaboration with SMEs from emerging and advanced sectors and provide direct financial support to SMEs through innovation and technical vouchers.

The MINE.THE.GAP vouchers will support projects that are aligned with the major challenges and needs of the raw materials and mining sectors, according to the image below:



**FIGURE 2-TOP 10 – CHALLENGES AND NEEDS – RAW MATERIALS AND MINING. SOURCE: ICAMCYL**

SMEs from the following sectors are eligible to apply for MINE.THE.GAP vouchers:

ADOPTERS:	RAW MATERIALS AND MINING SECTORS
	<p>Any SME implementing technology and innovation value across the whole raw materials value-chain, including, but not limited to: Mining operation and exploitation companies, exploration, prospection, extraction, processing, design, production, remanufacturing, use, re-use, repair, recycling.</p>
PROVIDERS:	ICT, CIRCULAR ECONOMY, RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND ADVANCED MANUFACTURING
	<p>Any SME providing technology and innovation value to be applied into the raw materials value chain from the following sectors: ICT, Circular Economy, Efficiency of resources/Sustainability, Green Technology and Advanced Manufacturing. (Please see the Key technologies in Appendix II)</p>

The MINE.THE.GAP call is for innovation vouchers with two different direct funding schemes:

TYPE OF PROJECT	TRL COVERED	PROJECT DURATION	PROJECT START
<p><b>MINE-PoC:</b> design and implementation of a prototype/proof-of-concept to demonstrate the viability of the proposed solution.</p>	<p>TRL6-7</p>	<p>9 Months</p>	<p>By September 1<sup>st</sup> 2021</p>
<p><b>MINE-Demo:</b> developing and testing in a production environment of a simple functional demo/pilot with all the major features of the product/service/solution.</p>	<p>TRL7-8</p>	<p>12 Months</p>	<p>By September 1<sup>st</sup> 2021</p>

## a. TYPE OF VOUCHERS

The MINE.THE.GAP Call will support two types of vouchers:

**MINE-PoC Voucher** provides financial support up to 25.000 euro per SME, for the design and implementation of a prototype/proof of concept to demonstrate its feasibility. This voucher has to address any of the top 10 challenges and needs identified in the raw materials and mining value chain while focussing on at least one of the 'Key Actions' to be funded (see section 2.b).

**MINE-Demo Voucher** provides financial support up to 50.000 euro per SME, for the development and testing in a production environment of a simple functional pilot or demonstration with all the major features of the product/service/solution. This voucher has to address any of the top 10 challenges and needs identified in the raw materials and mining value chain while focussing on at least one of the 'Key Actions' to be funded (see section 2.b).

**One SME can apply to multiple vouchers, but the total funding awarded in the context of project "MINE THE GAP" is limited to 60.000 € as maximum per company.** It is important to note, that awarded companies will receive access to a collection of business services with a direct financial support from 3.000 euro up to 7.000 euro. Thus, an SME can receive vouchers and direct financial support for business services until upper limit of 60.000 EUR. Services and work exceeding the granted voucher amount will not be covered but must be paid for by the SMEs themselves. **In conclusion, in case that one SME participates in several awarded projects, exceeding the total limit of 60.000 € (business services included – see 2.c -), such company will have to commit to cover the work and expenses at their own cost.**

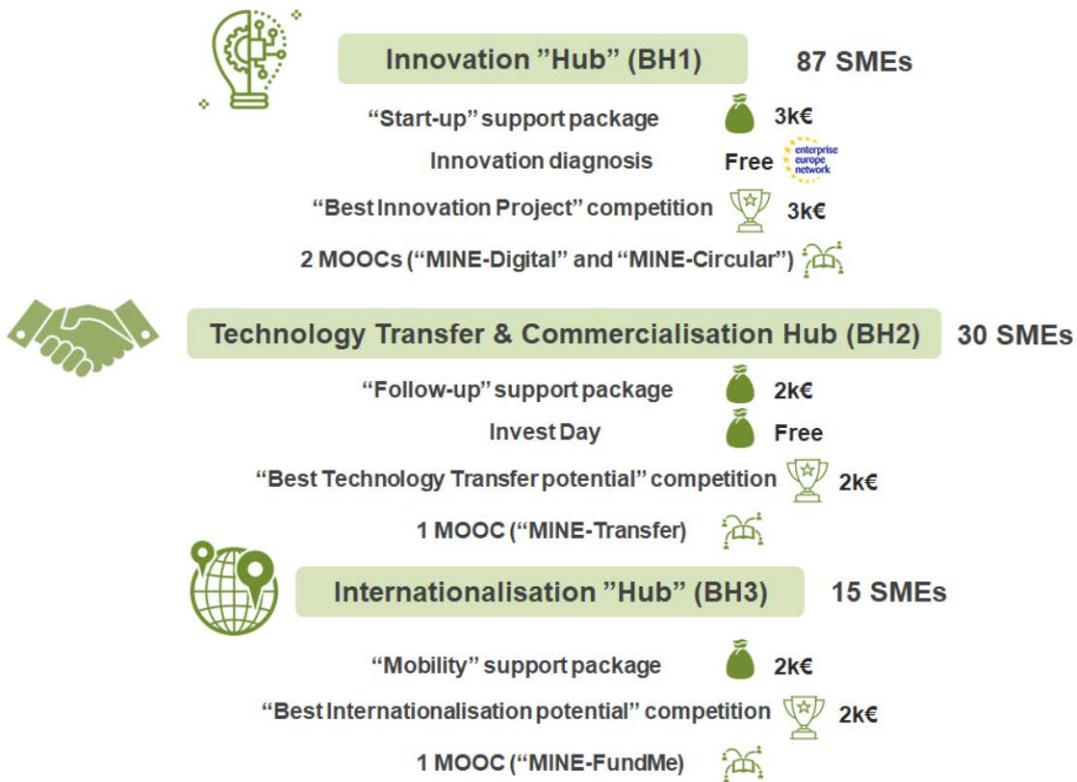
## b. Business support services

MINE.THE.GAP will provide a number of business support related services to the selected projects in order to enhance innovation capacities, promote technology transfer and commercialisation, and boost their internationalisation. These services will support the creation of new businesses opportunities promoting growth and competitiveness of European SMEs.

In order to complete the activities on this Level 2, three different Business Hubs (BHs) will be implemented, where a series of specific services will be provided to strengthen the exit, implementation and consolidation in the market of the SMEs participating in the Open Calls: Innovation Hub (BH1); Technology Transfer & Commercialisation Hub (BH2) and Internationalisation Hub (BH3).

A summary of the support services will be implemented during MINE.THE.GAP to SMEs being awarded with financial support under the Open Calls. Services will be organised and communicated accordingly after the publication of the awarded

projects. Support services are summarized in the next graphical scheme:



### c. TOPICS TO BE FUNDED

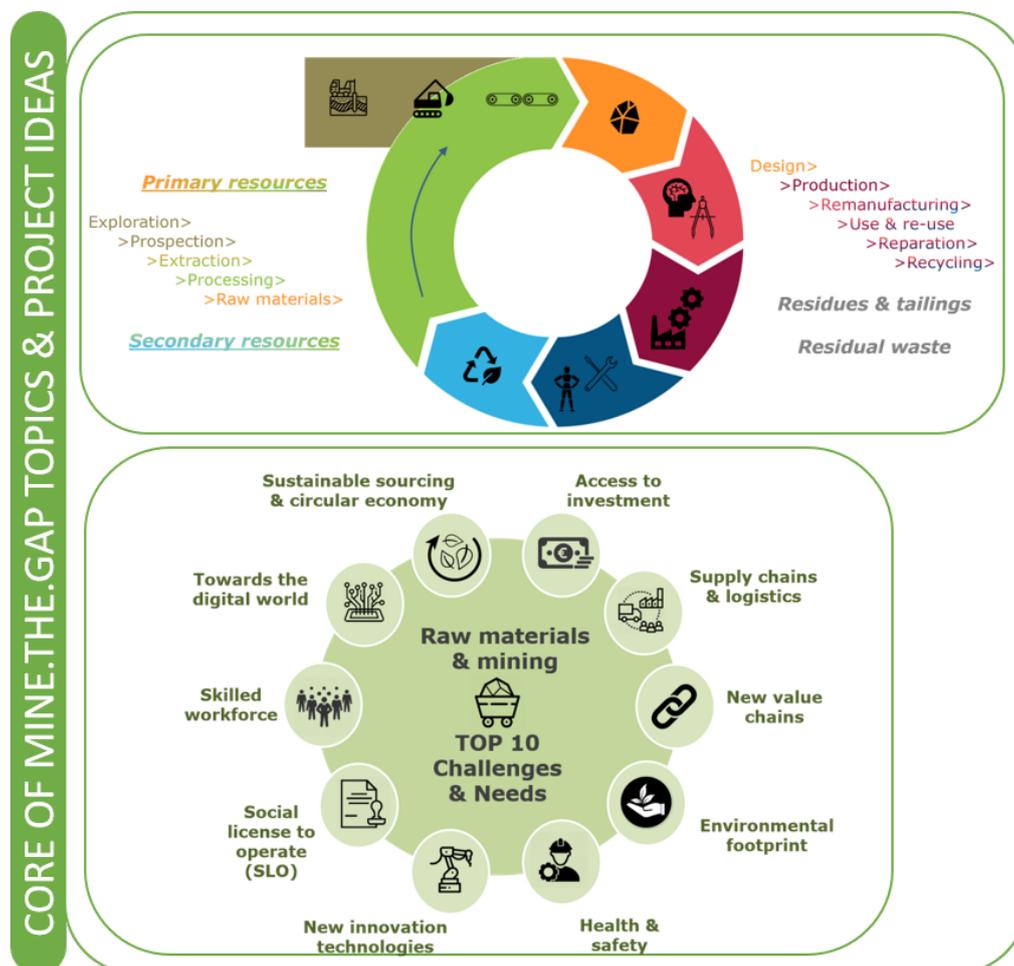
MINE.THE.GAP focuses on actions to be implemented in SMEs at any stage of the whole RAW MATERIALS AND MINING value chain.



FIGURE 3-RAW MATERIALS AND MINING VALUE CHAIN

MINE.THE.GAP is aligned with the priorities outlined in the European plan of resilience in raw materials COM (2020) 474 – *Critical Raw Materials Resilience: Charting a Path towards greater Security and Sustainability*<sup>1</sup>, resulting from the European Innovation Partnership in raw materials and the implementation of its roadmap (SIP – Strategic Implementation Plan<sup>2</sup>). MINE.THE.GAP aims to improve the competitiveness of SMEs by meeting the top 10 challenges for sustainable mining (see figure 2), and to increase the resilience of EU industrial value chains by providing a sustainable supply of raw materials and contributing to the implementation of circular economy in the mining and raw materials sector.

Based on these aims and policies, **MINE.THE.GAP innovation vouchers will fund ideas leading to a proof of concept or simple functional demo/pilot in the following key areas (KA):**



<sup>1</sup> [COM \(2020\) 474 - Critical Raw Materials Resilience: Charting a Path towards greater Security and Sustainability](#)

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/raw-materials/eip/strategic-implementation-plan\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/raw-materials/eip/strategic-implementation-plan_en)

**KA1-** Adoption and implementation of innovative technologies oriented to improve the sustainable supply of raw materials from mineral resources and anthropogenic deposits, including innovative exploration technologies or technologies that will boost competitiveness in mining life cycle.

**KA5-** Towards the digitalisation of the raw materials sector. Innovative technologies to be applied into mining, processing, smelting operations that improve SMEs competitiveness, contribute to an efficient use of resources, reduction of emissions, or ensure safe operations.

**KA2-** Eco-friendly technologies and environmental actions to achieve a sustainable mining approach, technologies to mitigate the impact of mining or to reclaim post-operation mining land and/or revitalise the economy of the region.

**KA6-** Advanced training skills, methods, technologies and occupational safety innovative measures for the workers oriented to improve the operations and attract or recover jobs in a new transformed sector essential for the Just Transition.

**KA3-** Circular economy plans, technologies, methods, analysis and business model (i.e., industrial symbiosis) to be applied at any stage of the operation cycle of raw materials value chain, ensuring an eco-efficient operation of a mining exploitation or related to the circular supply of raw materials.

**KA7-** Cross-cutting topics, highlighting the importance of new business models, new financial and investment methodologies for the raw materials sector, forefront methods or exploration data bases for low environmental impact exploration, and methods to improve public perception of mining and processing/metallurgy in addition to legislative obligations in order to better gain the social acceptance (Social License to operate – SLO.)

**KA4-** Process technologies, advanced manufacturing technologies, robotics, oriented to improve productivity and the efficient use of resources, recovery of raw materials (including co and by-product), recycling technologies or other approaches increasing eco-efficiency in the sector of raw materials.



**KA1-** Adoption and implementation of innovative technologies oriented to improve the sustainable supply of raw materials from mineral resources and anthropogenic deposits, including innovative exploration technologies or technologies that will boost competitiveness in mining life cycle.

This Key Action will fund project ideas under the following topics:

- Exploration technologies, including forefront geophysical or geochemical methods, advanced modelling of resources, innovative technology aided approaches such as satellite information, advanced sensing, or drone prototypes for resource mapping, identification or discovery.
- Innovative tools and methods for resource pre-/characterisation.
- Concepts and methodologies for assessing mineral resources supply risks
- Long-term monitoring systems of mining operations.
- Generation of databases and inventories of raw materials, from geology (mineral deposits) to tailings.
- Classification methods of interest for the supply and recovery of critical raw materials. Map and 3D inventories.
- Advanced methods for detection and identification of resources (i.e., sensing technologies, analytics, geomagnetism).



**KA2-** Eco-friendly technologies and environmental actions to achieve a sustainable mining approach, technologies to mitigate the impact of mining or to reclaim post-operation mining land and/or revitalise the economy of the region.

This Key Action will fund project ideas under the following topics:

- Water treatment and water purification technologies.
- Advanced design methodologies, methods to ensure sustainable and circular operation in a mine, a processing plant or a smelter.
- Recovery of raw materials from contaminated soil and water.
- Innovative remediation methods, applying advanced research from nanotechnologies or biotechnology. Innovative solutions for soil recovery based on technosole approaches.
- Cost efficient concepts and methodologies for remediation after mine closure with field demonstration.
- Restoration ideas, plans, pre-projects, methods and technologies for recovery or reuse of abandoned mines, including (but not restricted to) the revitalization of a mining site, i.e., by construction of bio parks, actions for preserving palaeontologic heritage, the installation of innovative production mechanisms for renewable energies (solar energy, hydrogen, geothermal energy), use of infrastructures for the installation

of systems oriented to generate renewable energy.



**KA3-** Circular economy plans, technologies, methods, analysis and business model (i.e., industrial symbiosis) to be applied at any stage of the operation cycle of raw materials value chain, ensuring an eco-efficient operation of a mining exploitation or related to the circular supply of raw materials.

This Key Action will fund project ideas under the following topics:

- Any innovative smart and eco-efficient technologies for mining, processing or smelting reducing the environmental impact at any stage of the operation value chain.
- Any technology applied at any stage of the operations in a mine, a processing plant or a smelter oriented to reduce emissions, water and energy consumption.
- Advanced methods to be implanted to ensure the efficient use of resources (i.e., water use, energy use, better use or recovery of raw materials) such as the adoption of digital technologies (i.e., digital twins) and new workflows.
- Advanced recovery or separation methods, reducing the generated waste, processes or products giving a new fate to waste, or recovering raw materials from mining tailings or scraps.
- Efficient characterization and separation of products and components for re-use or recycling.
- Ideas to recover metals and rare earth elements from urban mines via innovative, clean and environmental-friendly processes. The low environmental impact must be demonstrated (i.e., by environmental impact assessment methods).
- Modelling circular economy, methods for assessing the circular operation.



**KA4-** Process technologies, advanced manufacturing technologies, robotics, oriented to improve productivity and the efficient use of resources, recovery of raw materials (including co and by-product), recycling technologies or other approaches increasing eco-efficiency in the sector of raw materials.

This Key Action will fund project ideas under the following topics:

- Advanced processing methods leading to more efficient operation, automating stages of the production (i.e., new advanced manufacturing processes, methods, mechanisms or robotics) or contributing to a more efficient separation and classification of the mineral (i.e., integrating ore-sorting technologies for waste minimization).
- Advanced recovery methods, reducing the generated waste, or

recovering raw materials from mining water, mining waste, tailings or scraps

- Innovative methods, pilots, field studies, processing approaches (i.e., ionic liquids, hydro/pyro-metallurgy), to recover valuable critical raw materials (i.e., rare earths, PGMs and other by-products) from the smelt and from mining tailings, in mining processing stages (i.e., recovering PGMs at ppms from mining waste and demonstrate the efficient reuse in catalyst) or secondary raw materials processing stages.
- Innovation and benchmarking of environmental-friendly processes, separation, and recovery techniques.
- Any process proven efficient and sustainable oriented to open a valorisation of any mining and processing waste or waste from smelting processes into a valuable raw material, industrial symbiotic value chain or a product (i.e., recovering specific raw materials from mining tailings and reuse them to manufacture advanced geopolymers applicable to construction).
- Ideas implementing industry 4.0 solutions at the level of processing plants, or manufacturing or smelting stages, including automated systems/robotics for hand-free operations (i.e., automated drilling systems, remoted explosive operations, gunite robots).



**KA5-** Towards the digitalisation of the raw materials sector. Innovative technologies to be applied into mining, processing, smelting operations that improve SMEs competitiveness, contribute to an efficient use of resources, reduction of emissions, or ensure safe operations.

This Key Action will fund project ideas under the following topics:

- Integration of methods, tools, software, IoT (Internet of Things) solutions in automation and robotics in mining environments and processes across mine operations or smelting processes.
- Enhanced connected mobility for the digital mine, like augmented reality and virtual reality tools and systems for the workers
- Analytics and decision support tools for prediction and planning operations leading to an OPEX reduction or environmental footprint reduction (i.e., Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, simulation tools).
- Improving communication protocols, interoperability, cybersecurity, block chain at any stage of the mining operation and raw materials value chain.
- Tracking and wearable devices for enhanced safe operations in mining.
- Drones or any kind of unmanned vehicles linked to a digital platform allowing mapping, maintenance or risky operations.
- Sensing technologies, digital twins oriented to improve sustainability, design, safety, operation costs of a raw materials exploitation.



**KA6-** Advanced training skills, methods, technologies and occupational safety innovative measures for the workers oriented to improve the operations and attract or recover jobs in a new transformed sector essential for the Just Transition.

This Key Action will fund project ideas under the following topics:

- Integration of methods, tools, software, virtual platforms and devices (i.e., simulators) to train the workers to safely operate.
- Innovative learning and teaching methods oriented to educate the workers to operate forefront production technologies, to adapt to new safety certifications or sustainable mining, to work under an industry 4.0 environment or to operate with digital platforms.
- Solutions for improving mining, processing or smelting operation safety, including the reduction of labour risk exposure to hazardous elements, products or dust.
- Interactive education methods or systems (i.e., by means of virtual learning, augmented reality training) oriented to train or improve the skills of the workers, with particular focus on risky operations (i.e., explosives) or complex use of machinery or heavy vehicles.
- Innovative gadgets or wearables bringing a safety advantage in risky operations to the workers.



**KA7-** Cross-cutting topics, highlighting the importance of new business models, new financial and investment methodologies for the raw materials sector, forefront methods or exploration data bases for low environmental impact exploration, and methods to improve public perception of mining and processing/metallurgy in addition to legislative obligations in order to better gain the social acceptance (Social License to operate – SLO.)

This Key Action will fund project ideas under the following topics:

- Ideas oriented to improve the social acceptance and trust/public perception of raw materials sector (i.e., international transparency portal of the mining industry).
- New business models (implementing circular economy aspects) (i.e., new business models for resource recovery, remanufactured products, product life extension, sharing platforms).
- Tools, applications and services that enable circular economy business models with a particular focus on raw materials mining.
- Development of digital tools for enabling new collaborations within the product life cycle.
- Measures to raise the public perception for activities associated with the sustainable supply of raw materials.
- Standardized social science methodologies for gathering/analysing data in different countries on improving raw materials awareness and public acceptance.
- Improvement of methods or data for increasing the efficiency of an environmental impact assessment or a LCA - life-cycle analysis. Studies on flows of mineral resources (i.e., MFA - material-flow analysis)
- Valuable data bases with information on social perception, environmental protection, responsible actions, social projects and best lessons learnt related

to sustainable mining.



### 3. WHO MAY APPLY & ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS

The MINE.THE.GAP will fund collaborative activities with the participation of max. three SMEs and minimum of two SMEs in consortium, according to the following rules:

- a. Applicants must be a SME (Small and Medium-size Enterprise) according to the EU definition<sup>3</sup> (Including Public SMEs and start-ups).
- b. Applicants must be established in one of the following nine MINE.THE.GAP target countries: Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Greece and Sweden.
- c. Eligible countries have been selected paying attention to the importance of the Industrial modernisation partnership S3P “mining and global value chains”
- d. Applications must be submitted by a consortium consisting of min. 2 SMEs and max 3 SMEs
- e. At least one SME in the consortium must belong to a “provider sector” (ICT, circular economy, resource efficiency and advanced manufacturing), and at least one of the participating SMEs must be an “adopter” of the technology belonging to any step of the raw materials value chain (as the example in Figure 5).
- f. A SME is considered eligible for MINE.THE.GAP open calls if it complies with ALL the following rules:
  - have not been declared bankrupt or have initiated bankruptcy procedures.
  - have not convictions for fraudulent behaviour, other financial irregularities, unethical or illegal business practices.
  - are not under liquidation or an enterprise under difficulty accordingly to the Commission Regulation No 651/2014 art. 2.18.

*Companies revealing economic issues due to the pandemic situation will be analysed and considered even if they provide a negative balance of year 2020.*

<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/sme-definition\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/sme-definition_en)

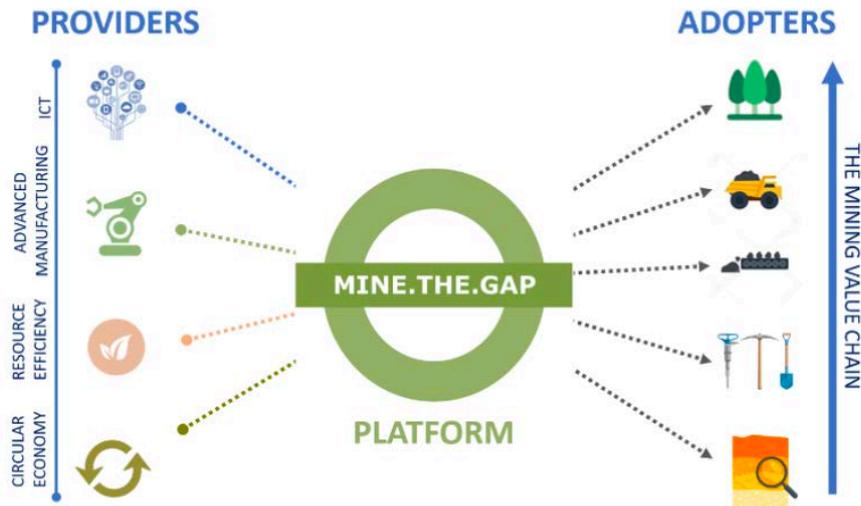
At least one of the SMEs in a single project must come from a different country established in one of the following nine MINE.THE.GAP target countries: Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Greece and Sweden.



**FIGURE 4-MAP REPRESENTING COUNTRIES OF THE CALL. SOURCE - ADAPTED FROM TOM.**

**EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE CONSORTIUM CONSTITUTION:**

The MINE.THE.GAP vouchers will support projects that bring together technology providers and businesses in the mining industry to create new and improved value chains. Through MINE.THE.GAP, European SMEs can enter new collaborations to develop products, technologies, solutions, and services for the raw materials and mining sectors. The diagram below demonstrates possible consortium structures:

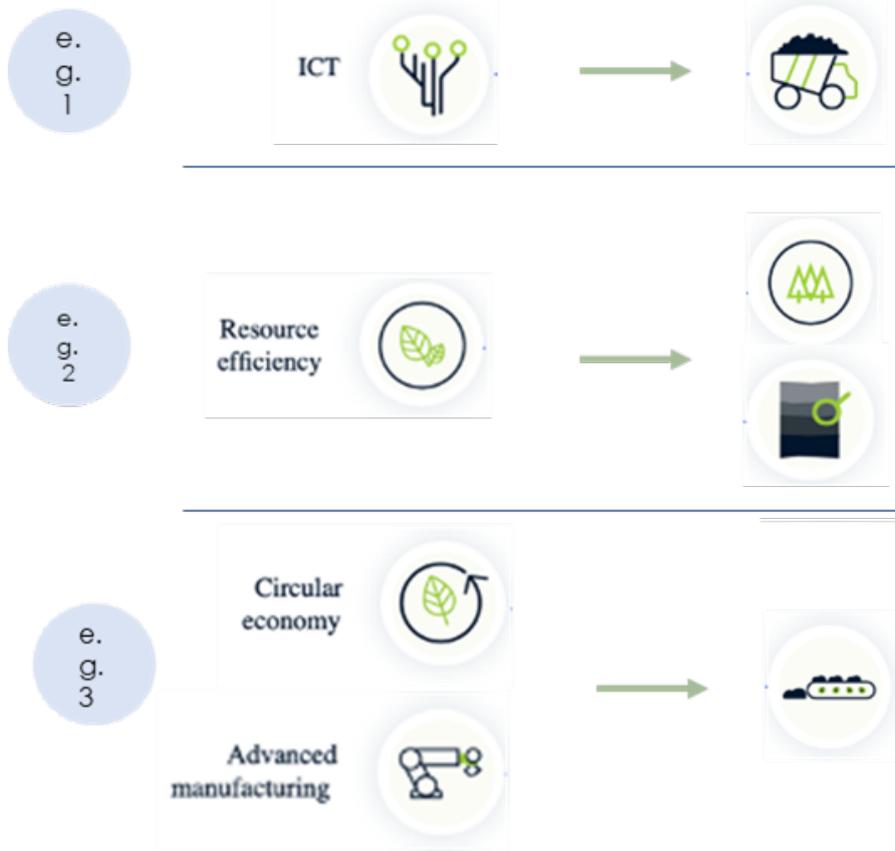


**FIGURE 5-MINE.THE.GAP COLLABORATIONS**

MINE.THE.GAP will fund collaborative activities of these possible project consortia:

<p>➤</p>	<p>One SME from the target sectors and one SME from the provider sectors</p>	<p>a</p>
<p>➤</p>	<p>One SME from the provider sector and two from target sectors</p>	<p>b</p>
<p>➤</p>	<p>Two from provider sector and one for the target sector</p>	<p>c</p>

Please, see below, examples of the consortium structure:



**FIGURE 6-POSSIBLE STRUCTURES OF PROJECT CONSORTIA - EXAMPLES**



## 4. FUNDING CONDITIONS

The applicants will receive a funding decision by the Grant Management Secretariat by June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2021.

SMEs have the possibility to participate in different MINE.THE.GAP open calls during the course of the MINE.THE.GAP project. However, the maximum possible financial support for any SME in all calls is limited to 60.000,00 €, including projects and total of business services awarded.

Maximum funding per SME/project	MINE-PoC	25.000,00 €
	MINE-Demo	50.000,00 €
Maximum funding per project:	MINE-PoC	75.000,00 €
	MINE-Demo	150.000,00 €
Type of financial support:	Lump-sum	
Payments	50% pre-funding	
	25% after 6 months of execution and with intermediate report	
	25% after final report	
Each interested SME can apply to one or several vouchers in accordance with its needs and request up to the maximum amount independently if they want to apply to one or more vouchers.		
The total amount of direct financial support for SMEs in this Call, under MINE.THE.GAP is 1,5 Million of euros.		

## a. ELIGIBLE COSTS

Successful proposals shall receive the requested financial contribution in the form of a lump sum.

A lump sum is a fixed amount of money which can be used by beneficiaries for several purposes related to the achievement of the project objectives. It is necessary to provide an explanation in the application on how the lump sum will be used including a clear budget proposal (personnel, subcontracting, travels, equipment and consumables). Since the granting of a lump-sum does not foresee the delivery of a detailed financial reporting and timesheets, the use of the project budget will be controlled considering the technical advancements by the technical reviewers. The final technical evaluation will assess the coherence of the spent money with the achieved results. However, since beneficiaries will have to keep the original documents of their expenses (timesheets, invoices, contracts) in case of an audit, the following rules and limitations per type of voucher must be respected.

Only costs generated during the lifetime of the project can be eligible. Since project is funding in the form of a lump-sum, costs described in the submitted budget must be determined in accordance with the usual accounting and management principles and practices of the beneficiary. Examples of eligible costs are:

- Ex1. Direct staff costs** (personnel) hours cost of the staff of the beneficiary that is dedicated to actual work under the development of the project
- Ex2. Subcontracting costs** (external expertise): work carried out by an external provider which has entered into an agreement on business conditions with the beneficiary. This external provider cannot be one of the consortium partners.
- Ex3. Other costs:** further direct incurred costs can be claimed, like travel expenses, equipment (only depreciation costs), consumables, etc.

## b. PAYMENT SCHEME

➔	50% upon the signature of grant agreement.
➔	25% after 6 months of execution and with intermediate report, upon the successful evaluation by MINE.THE.GAP consortium.
➔	25% after final report and upon the successful evaluation by MINE.THE.GAP consortium.

## 5. MANDATORY DOCUMENTS FOR THE PROPOSALS TO BE ELIGIBLE



<b>PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE</b>	May 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2021; 17:00 CET
<b>CONSORTIUM COMPOSITION</b>	<p>SMEs from the countries of the MINE.THE.GAP target countries and the Mining Industry Smart Specialisation platform are eligible to participate. Such countries are Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Greece and Sweden</p> <p>1 SME from target sectors and 2 SMEs from the provider sectors or 2 SMEs from target sectors and 1 from the provider sectors or 1 SME from provider Sector and 1 from Target Sector – Minimum: 2 countries</p>
<b>PROJECT DURATION</b>	<p>MINE.POC: 9 Months</p> <p>MINE.DEMO: 12 Months</p>
<b>MANDATORY DOCUMENTS</b>	<p>Full complete application package, consisting of: Application form, commitment declaration, Ethics issue declaration, financial declaration; SME profile with CVs.</p> <p>A Guide for proposal submission, including all the templates, is available at <a href="https://h2020-minethegap.eu/open-calls/">https://h2020-minethegap.eu/open-calls/</a></p>
<b>APPLICANT REQUESTING FUNDING</b>	All applicants requesting funding must provide a statement of commitment duly signed by the legal representative of the organisation or the Lead Researcher.
<b>LANGUAGE</b>	English is the official language for MINE.THE.GAP open calls. Submissions done in any other language will not be evaluated. English is also the only official language during the whole execution of the MINE.THE.GAP project. This means any requested submission of deliverable must be done in English in order to be eligible.



## 6. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES

The evaluation procedures are designed to identify the best proposals in terms of excellence, impact, and quality and efficiency of the implementation, as thoroughly and accurately as possible; and to undertake the assessment in a fair, transparent and homogeneous way for all proposals submitted under the call.

### a. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on three main evaluation criteria:

- 1) Excellence (10 points / 30% Weight).
- 2) Impact (10 points / 40% Weight).
- 3) Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation (10 points; 30% Weight).

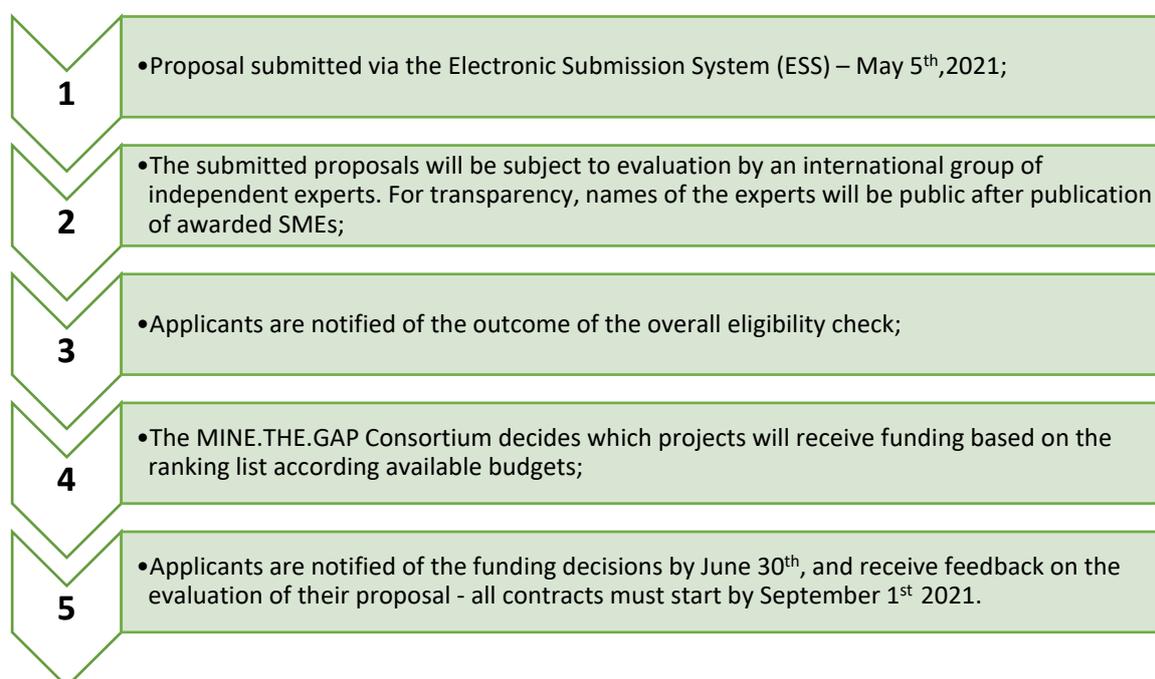
Evaluation scores will be awarded accordingly to the three main evaluation criteria giving as a result a weighted score over 10 points, with a threshold of **7/10**:

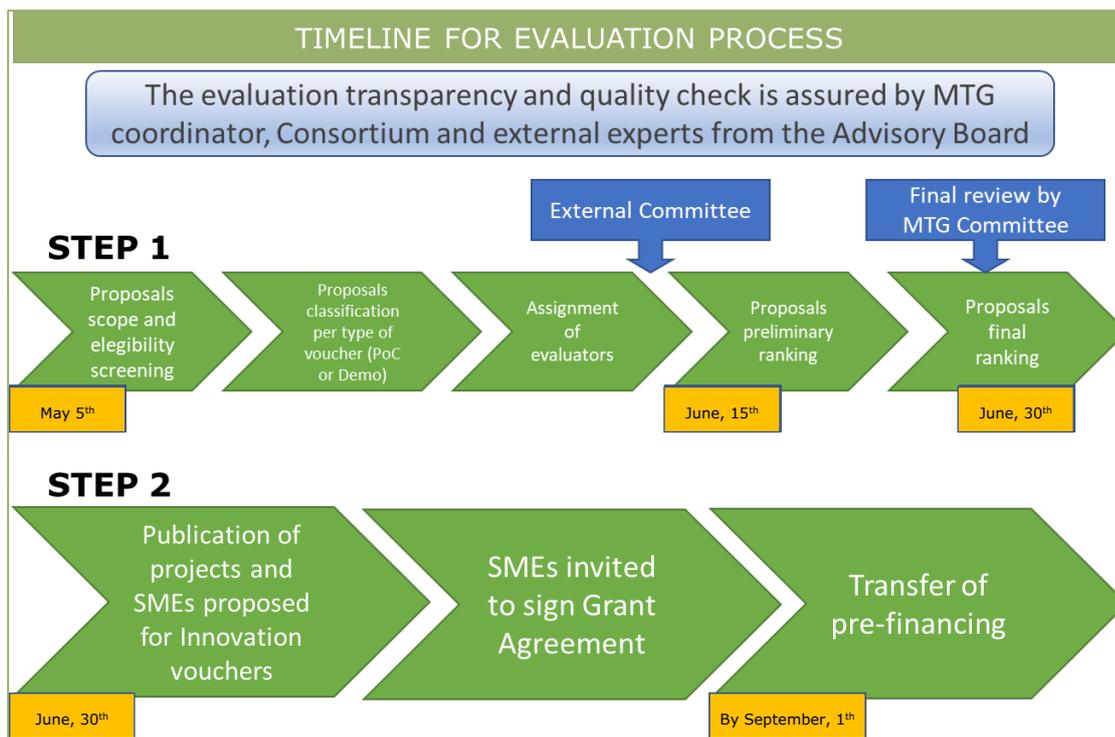
CRITERIA	Weight	Threshold
<b>Excellence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovation potential idea that it is aligned with a barrier/ challenge related to Raw Materials and Mining Sector.</li> <li>• The solution will contribute for the challenge or to overcoming the barriers identified and to meet the top ten challenges identified by MINE.THE.GAP in sustainable raw materials supply.</li> <li>• Innovative solution that goes beyond the state of the art in comparison with existing or competing/ existing solutions.</li> </ul>	30%	3/10
<b>Impact</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Realistic and relevant description of how the innovation will have impact on the different participating companies.</li> <li>• Alignment of proposal with the MINE.THE.GAP topics (Key areas).</li> <li>• Convincing description of how the innovation will have impact in the field/ thematic of the proposal.</li> <li>• Convincing description of how the proposal will have</li> </ul>	40%	4/10

<p>EU and National impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential of the proposal for cross-cutting and its contribution for Environmental and Societal impacts.</li> <li>• Real up-scaling potential including a clear exploitation and business plan for the solution. In the case of Demo projects, a commercialisation plan of the product or service, and realising implementation and set up in operation plan is required.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Quality and efficiency of the implementation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality and complementarity of the participants and extent to which the consortium as whole brings together the necessary expertise.</li> <li>• Quality and effectiveness of the work plan.</li> <li>• Balance of the allocation of tasks and resources, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role.</li> </ul>	30%	3/10

## b. EVALUATION PROCESS:

The following is a schematic representation of the evaluation and decision-making process:





### c. TIMELINE AND DEADLINES

Opening Date	March 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2021
Deadline Date	May 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
Evaluation and selection	June 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 (External Committee) June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 (Internal MTG Committee)
Communication of the decision to applicants	By June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
Start of projects (Max)	By September 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021



## 7. HOW TO APPLY AND HOW TO FIND CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

Voucher applications are submitted through the MINE.THE.GAP collaborative platform. Interested SMEs have to create a MINE.THE.GAP account to access the platform. Once having created an account, SMEs can complete a partner search indicating which ideas, technologies, solutions, and fields they offer, and which partners they are looking for to apply to the call. All searches are published in the collaboration platform so that SMEs can contact each other and form consortia for the project proposals.

### a. HOW TO APPLY

The beneficiary submits the voucher application through a web form on the website of the project that can be found at: <https://h2020-minethegap.eu>. Full guide of submission is provided in APPENDIX III.

- The submission language is English.
- Applicants are expected to provide complete, accurate data and contact details.
- The application reception **will close on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 17:00H CET**
- It is highly recommended to submit the application before the deadline to avoid any failures in applications because of technical issues.
- Only full and correct applications submitted will be considered.

The following documents are all needed to be properly completed and submitted electronically through MINE.THE.GAP platform to answer the call:

1. Application form
2. Statement of Commitment
3. Ethics issues declaration
4. Financial declaration
5. Participating partner profile with CVs

### b. HOW TO FIND CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

Voucher applications are submitted through the MINE.THE.GAP collaborative platform. Interested SMEs can create a MINE.THE.GAP account to access the platform. A full guide of partner search is provided in APPENDIX IV.

Once having created an account, SMEs can complete a partner search indicating which ideas, technologies, solutions, and fields they offer, and which partners they are looking for to apply to the call. All searches are published in the collaboration platform so that SMEs can contact each other and form consortia for the project proposals.



## 8. MONITORING PROCEDURES

In order to receive the lump sum, each project and SMEs, must complete and submit both an intermediate and final report. The assessment reports will be submitted via platform in English.

### INTERMEDIATE REPORT:

An intermediate report has to be submitted within one month after the first half of the project duration using a webform on the <https://h2020-minethegap.eu>

The intermediate report must include:

- Progress of the project with a short description of the work done by all partners.
- Any problems or delays in the project and the measures to solve it.
- Description report about budget spent for each partner.

### FINAL REPORT:

The final report has to be submitted within one month after the final of the project duration using a webform on the <https://h2020-minethegap.eu>

The final report must include:

- Results of the project.
- Comparison of what was predicted in the proposal with the results/objectives arisen.
- Impact of the project for each beneficiary.
- Justification of the appropriate use of the funds for each beneficiary.
- Global Assessment of MINE.THE.GAP support and project.



## 9. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE GRANT AGREEMENT

### a. FUNDING DECISIONS

The list of funded projects will be published on the MINE.THE.GAP website.

Each beneficiary will have a separate funding contract/grant agreement with MINE.THE.GAP.

Changes to the budget cannot occur during the contract agreement of the voucher.

The Awarded projects must start by September 1<sup>st</sup> of 2021. It is expected that grant agreement be fully signed 1 month after the notification of results.

### b. REDRESS PROCEDURE

All applicants have a right to a redress procedure if they feel that there has been a shortcoming in the way their proposal was evaluated, or if they believe that the results of the eligibility checks are incorrect. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be rejected, indeed applicants will receive an email stating the reason for rejection.

Eligibility criteria for each proposal are checked by the MINE.THE.GAP consortium (internal reviewers) before the evaluation begins. Proposals which do not fulfil eligibility criteria are not included in the evaluation. The redress procedure is only concerned with how the application was handled in the evaluation and eligibility-checking process. It is not an automatic re-evaluation; the judgement of appropriately qualified experts is not called into question.

Any redress request must be addressed to MINE.THE.GAP consortium through the online platform. Specific formularies will be accessible once the results of the call will have been published.

Together with MINE.THE.GAP internal reviewers, the MINE.THE.GAP coordinator will review the complaint and will recommend an appropriate course of action. This ensures a coherent interpretation of such requests, and equal treatment of all applicants.

Requests must:

- Be related to the evaluation process, or eligibility criteria.



- Include the title of the application, voucher type, any relevant other information (such as application ID) and a clear description of the grounds for complaint.
- Be received within the time limit specified, i.e., 3 days from the receipt of evaluation verdict/rejection letter.

Please note: The redress procedure is concerned only with the evaluation and/or eligibility checking process. This will not call into question the scientific or technical judgement of appropriately qualified experts.

Only one request for redress per proposal will be considered. All requests for redress will be treated in confidence.

The evaluation of redress requests may take up to four weeks. The final verdict will be communicated via email to the applicant.

### **c. DATA PROTECTION**

In order to process and evaluate applications, MINE.THE.GAP will need to collect Personal and Industrial Data. All applications and related data must be submitted through the MINE.THE.GAP platform. The MINE.THE.GAP platform's design and operational procedures ensure that data is managed in compliance with The General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR)<sup>4</sup>.

Please check the MINE.THE.GAP platform privacy policy. Before registering, each applicant will accept the MINE.THE.GAP platform privacy policy to ensure coverage.

Please note that MINE.THE.GAP requests the minimum information needed for respective voucher application to deliver the evaluation procedures. Additional information (such as bank account details, information for sub-grant agreements) will only be requested if the SMEs' voucher application is selected for funding as per the MINE.THE.GAP voucher framework.

### **d. RESPONSABILITIES OF VOUCHER 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 EU Framework Programme for Research and

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj>

Innovation<sup>5</sup>. The obligations that are applicable to the recipients include:

### *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').

### *Confidentiality*

The EC and the MINE.THE.GAP consortium shall be authorized 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 publishable reports submitted to MINE.THE.GAP.
- any publishable diagram, workflow, picture or any audio-visual or web material provided to the EC and MINE.THE.GAP 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 MTG 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 MINE.THE.GAP, 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 and/or commercial interests.

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

The beneficiary SMEs must promote the sub-project, the MINE.THE.GAP 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 MINE.THE.GAP 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 promotional

---

<sup>5</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en>



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

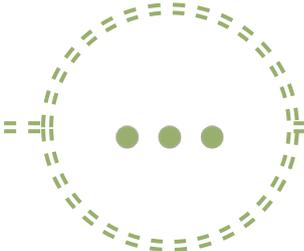
- . (a) display the EU emblem.
- . (b) display the MINE.THE.GAP and
- . (c) include the following text:

For communication activities: *“This project has indirectly received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme, via an Open Call issued and executed under project MINE.THE.GAP (grant agreement No 824920)”*.

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, via an Open Call issued and executed under project MINE.THE.GAP (grant agreement No 824920)”*.

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 MINE.THE.GAP project is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

When displayed in association with a logo, the EU emblem should be given appropriate prominence. This obligation to use the EU 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 at: [https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/grants/grant-management/communication\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/grants/grant-management/communication_en.htm)



## 10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### a. DATA MANAGEMENT

Personal data and information are provided in the application form for the immediate purpose of allowing a full and successful evaluation of applicants. This includes:

- Name of the applicant and contact details of the applicant (telephone number, postal address, country, internet site)
- Name and details of the contact person (e-mail, telephone number)
- VAT Registration Number of the company
- Financial information of the company (number of employees, annual turnover or balance)

In case that a project is awarded, the following additional information of the voucher recipient is required:

- Bank account reference (IBAN and BIC codes).
- Information about the voucher recipient's representative: Name and Surname, Position, Telephone number, Mail address, Signature.

Data concerning the service provider is delivered in the application form and in the final reports with the purpose of permitting the evaluation of the action.

Personal data will be processed in compliance with applicable EU and national law on data protection<sup>6</sup>.

The beneficiaries must accept the use of data with the purpose of evaluation.

### b. FINAL AUDITS AND CONTROL

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 EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation<sup>7</sup>.

---

<sup>6</sup> [Protection of personal data](#)

<sup>7</sup> [EU Framework Program](#)

The Coordinator or the Commission will — during the implementation of the action or afterwards — check the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement, including assessing reports. The Coordinator or the Commission may also request additional information. Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested

The Coordinator or the Commission may — during the implementation of the action or afterwards — carry out reviews and audits on the proper implementation of the action. This will be formally notified to the voucher recipient and will be considered to have started on the date of the formal notification.

Under Regulations No 883/2013 and No 2185/96 (and in accordance with their provisions and procedures), the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) may — at any moment during implementation of the action or afterwards — carry out investigations, including on-the-spot checks and inspections, to establish whether there has been fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity affecting the financial interests of the EU.

## c. CONTACT POINTS

For any enquires regarding the MINE.THE.GAP project please contact:

 <p>South-node</p> 	 <p>Central-node</p> 	 <p>East/North-node</p> 
<p><b>IDiA</b></p> <p>Nina Hoppmann nina.hoppmann@idia.es</p>	<p><b>AXELERA</b></p> <p>Aline Richir Aline.richir@axelera.org</p>	<p><b>DIGIPOLIS</b></p> <p>Hanna Vallo: Hanna-maria.vallo@digipolis.fi</p>
<p><b>ACPMR</b></p> <p>Marta Peres marta.peres@clustermineralresources.pt</p>	<p><b>GKZ</b></p> <p>Meng Chun Lee mengchun.lee@gkz-ev.de</p>	<p><b>WMRC</b></p> <p>Joanna Kulczycka kulczycka@meeri.pl</p>



THE  
CONSORTIUM



European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 873149

**Topic:**  
**H2020-**  
**INNOSUP-**  
**01-2018-**  
**2020**