



Internet Mobile ConTent

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

IMPACT 1st OPEN CALL
(2014 edition)

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Welcome to the IMPACT Frequently Asked Questions. We are grateful that you are interested in applying to the IMPACT Accelerator. The following information is intended to help you through the process, and solving queries on the IMPACT Open Call. The FAQ will be updated regularly based on the questions we receive. If you cannot find the answer to your question here, please submit your question(s) to opencall@IMPACT-accelerator.com . We will do our best to assist you!

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1 General Questions related with FI-PPP

1.1 What is FI-PPP

[The Future Internet Public Private Partnership \(FI-PPP\)](#) is an European programme for Internet-enabled innovation. The FI-PPP will accelerate the development and adoption of Future Internet technologies in Europe, advance the European market for smart infrastructures, and increase the effectiveness of business processes through the Internet. The core platform of the FI-PPP program is realized by the FIWARE project. A number of Use Case projects contribute to the realization of the Future Internet vision.

1.2 What is FIWARE?

[FIWARE](#) is an innovative, open cloud-based infrastructure for cost-effective creation and delivery of Future Internet applications and services. FIWARE API specifications are public and royalty-free, driven by the development of an open source reference implementation, which accelerates the availability of commercial products and services based on FIWARE technologies.

2 General Questions related with < IMPACT >

2.1 What is IMPACT?

[The Internet Mobile ConTent \(IMPACT\)](#) partnership and project contributes to the promotion and early adoption of **FIWARE Technology** by providing **premium acceleration services** and distributing a total **grant support** of 6,4 M€ to around 64 European SMEs operating in **INTERNET MOBILE**.

2.2 What is considered Mobile Content?

Mobile content or technologies are mobile apps or business models based on mobility in the communications areas, social, video, media & advertising; design, education, entertainment, ecommerce, peripheral devices, content, connected TV, infrastructure, security, productivity, finance, smart cities and social networks, among others.

It is important to highlight that to be considered a Mobile business is not enough to pass a web into a mobile, the strategy of the business model must focus on mobility.

2.3 Why should I participate in the IMPACT Open Call?

First of all, because you have the possibility of receiving **up to 100.000€** (in cash and services), without diluting equity.

But it is not just for the money!!!

You would be able to participate in a 6 months **Premium Acceleration Service**, led by key world class digital ecosystem professionals and entrepreneurs, which will offer you:

- A specialized **training on Digital entrepreneurship** and mobile content to grow your chances of business and technology success
- A **high level team of mentors**, supporting you along the whole process.
- Individual support in finding **complementary funding** opportunities
- A **Demo Day** where you will have the possibility of contact with Business Angels and other first class global Funds.

Moreover, as beneficiary you will have the possibility of an **Extended Investment Phase**, which will consist of a fast track access to the Project Partners investment programs.

Therefore, if you want to leverage with the most recognized professionals within the Mobile sector, having first class mentoring support and an important financial support, IMPACT is your programme!!!

3 General Questions related with IMPACT Open Call

3.1 Who can apply for the open call?

The IMPACT Open Call is open for two types of applicants:

- **SMEs (legal persons)** ¹ participating on their own (only one SME per application).
- **Web Entrepreneurs (physical persons)**, or individuals, participating in groups of minimum 2 members².

¹ A SME will be considered as such if accomplishing with the Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC [<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:124:0036:0041:en:PDF>]. As a summary, the criteria are:

- Headcount in Annual Work Unit (AWU) less than 250.
- Annual turnover less or equal to €50 million OR annual balance sheet total less or equal to €43 million.

Note that the figures of partner and linked enterprises should also be considered as stated in

² A Web Entrepreneur is an individual natural person and not a registered SME.



As applicant you shall be **established**, or at least your key management team, in any of the **EU-28 countries**³ or a **FP7 Associated countries**⁴.

Moreover, to be **eligible**, your proposals have to fully comply with the **eligibility criteria** indicated in 'Guide for Applicants', which are:

- Use of FIWARE technologies
- Scope must be in Mobile domain

In addition you should look out for the **exclusion criteria**, also indicated in the 'Guide for Applicants':

- The same proposal must not be funded by more than one FIWARE Accelerator. If the same proposal, or a very similar one, has been already funded by other accelerator, the proposal will be excluded from the IMPACT process.
- Only one proposal per SME or individual can be submitted. If more than one proposal per SME or individual is identified, the proposal will be excluded from the process.

3.2 What type of projects is IMPACT looking for ?

If you fit in the criteria above described and you want to promote an innovative way to do business in mobile domain, you are welcome to submit your application, within one of the following categories:

N.	Category	Description
1.	Start-up Phase	Market deployment to break-even.
2.	Growth Phase	Business scalability after proven profitability.

The following items will be taken into account when pre-scoring the applications included in each category:

- **Start-up Phase:**
 - Level of usage of Mobility concept as a core of the business model
 - Level of integration of FIWARE technology and level of innovation
 - Functional prototype available before investing (or previous product success)
 - Founders full time dedicated to the project (minimum required: 2)
 - Less than 3 years since its constitution
 - Company value below 1.000.000€⁵
 - Objective to be in the market in less than 6 months
 - Established Metrics in terms of Users, Sales and Profit.

³ **EU-28 countries:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom

⁴ **FP7 Associated countries:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, FYR Macedonia, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey

⁵ The proof of the 'Company value' should be a concrete offer received in an investor round. If the Start-up hasn't participated in an investor round yet, its value will be, by default, less than 1M€.



- **Growth Phase:**

- Level of usage of Mobility concept as a core of the business model
- Level of integration of FIWARE technology and level of innovation
- Functional prototype available before investing (or previous product success)
- Founders full time dedicated to the project (minimum required: 2)
- Turnover < 2.000.000€
- Less than 7 years since its constitution
- Founders retaining at least 51% of equity
- Established Metrics in terms of Users, Sales and Profit.

Choose the category that better defines your project's stage. You can only apply to one of the categories.

3.3 Can I apply if I'm a single person?

An "Individual" can submit a proposal, but only by participating in a group of at least 2 persons, as indicated in the section 'Type of Applicants' within the 'Guide for Applicants'.

IMPACT looks for high potential start-ups and, in this sense, a consolidated team is one of the most important aspects of achieving potential. That's why IMPACT asks for teams of at least 2 persons full time dedicated to the project

3.4 Do we have to be constituted as SME?

No, it's not a requirement, because as indicated in [Question 3.3](#), a group of at least 2 "individuals" can submit a Proposal. However, it would be recommended because IMPACT project is looking for consolidated projects, even in legal terms.

In any case, although you can apply as a group of individuals, or as SMEs in constitution process, if you are finally selected as beneficiary, IMPACT project will ask you to be articulated as SME before the first milestone of the IMPACT Acceleration Program.

3.5 Do we have to be already selling or invoicing?

It is not a requirement, but it would be positively evaluated, because one of the objectives of the Acceleration Process is that all of you, as beneficiaries, will be able to sell at the end of the 6 months of acceleration.

3.6 If we are in another Acceleration Program, can we apply to IMPACT?

Yes, you can apply but, if you are selected, you will have to sign a Declaration confirming that you won't be in another Acceleration Program, once you will start IMPACT Program.

We do not accept beneficiaries which are, at the same time, committed with another acceleration program. It will be a conflict of interest and focus. A beneficiary cannot receive 2 mentoring, with different objectives and milestones, at the same time. However, if both acceleration programmes are not going to overlap time wise, you can apply for the IMPACT Acceleration program.

3.7 How can I apply for the open call?

You can apply for the call through the following link: www.fundingbox.com/IMPACT/apply

3.8 How long does it take to fill in an application?

It shouldn't take long. You only have to fill in the contest application form. Specific character limits have been established for each field.

An important issue to this respect is that you should have a clear project plan in terms of technology and business. Because you will be required to upload a Technology Map (including FIWARE Technologies Use Plan) and a Business Plan of the service/software to be developed.

Anyway, we highly encourage you to keep your proposal focused and relatively brief.

3.9 What type of support is available for preparing the proposal?

The '**Guide for Applicants**' is the main document of reference for you. It informs you about the evaluation and selection process of the proposals and the acceleration program offered by IMPACT.

Additionally an **Open Call Helpdesk** service (opencall@IMPACT-accelerator.com) is articulated to solve all doubts you may have related the application process (eligibility rules, info to be provided into the different sections of the Application Form, etc)

Finally a **Technical Helpdesk** service (info@fundingbox.com) is also available if you encounter any technical problem when fill in the Application Form.

3.10 What is the deadline for the application?

The deadline for the first call is **November 7th 2014 at 15:00 p.m (CET)**. No application will be accepted after deadline.

4 Questions related with IMPACT evaluation process

4.1 What are the criteria for selecting the final beneficiaries?

The IMPACT selection process has been designed to be fair, fun and interesting for you. Therefore we have designed a process in 3 phases.

- **Phase 1.** You will present projects through the Funding Box platform. After filling the online questionnaire, those who meet the **eligibility criteria** (see [Question N° 3.1](#)) and better align with the **categories requirements** (See [Question N° 3.2](#)), will move to the next phase of selection.
- **Phase 2.** After that, each proposal will be evaluated by 2 **independent experts** who will assess different variables (Market opportunity, Technology, Competition/Differentiation, Commercial Strategy and Scalability, Financials & Metrics and Team)
- **Phase 3.** Finally, best rated proposals will participate in the Jury Day and will be interviewed by the **Selection Committee** that will select the final beneficiaries.

For more information about the evaluation process, consult the “[Guide for Applicants](#)”.

4.2 What kind of rewards and benefits will IMPACT offer to beneficiaries?

If you are selected by the IMPACT Selection Committee, you will receive:

- An exclusive **6 months Acceleration Program** which will include: 90.000€ of **Funding**, to be sequentially delivered against the accomplishment of the specific deliverables included in the ‘IMPACT Sub-grant Agreement’ signed with IMPACT consortium, and 10.000€ in Services Vouchers, articulated through a **Premium Acceleration Program** consisting in Training and Mentoring under the guidance of key world class digital ecosystem professionals and entrepreneurs.
- an **Extended Investment Phase**, beyond the European Commission funding support and therefore out of the IMPACT project, but which could be a very important step for you in terms of project sustainability. In this phase the project partners of IMPACT consortium will invite the most outstanding projects into their existing investment tracks.

5 Questions related with IMPACT's funding

5.1 Is there going to be an advanced payment to selected projects?

IMPACT funding schema is based on payments against validation of deliverables established on the 'IMPACT Sub-grant Agreement'. That means that payments will be done after receiving and validating the beneficiaries' deliverables. Therefore, there will not be advance payment.

5.2 When do the selected projects receive the funding?

The beneficiaries will receive the 90.000€ in cash in three stages:

- **1st Stage (Month 0):** 25%, once the '*IMPACT sub-grant Agreement*' has been signed and the deliverables indicated submitted and validated.
- **2nd Stage (Month 3):** 50% once the criteria for this second stage have been completed and the deliverables submitted and validated.
- **3rd Stage (Month 6):** 25% delivered in 2 batches. First batch of 10% at the end of the acceleration program, if all the objectives have been gotten, and the remaining 15% will be approved but the payment will be done when the IMPACT consortia will receive the last payment from the European Commission.

5.3 How will IMPACT monitor the progress of the beneficiaries?

Each beneficiary will have their specific deliverables/objectives included in their '**Individual Mentor Plan**', which will be developed in the 'Welcoming Week' and will be attached, as a formal requirement for beneficiaries, within the '*IMPACT Sub-grant Agreements*'.

The '*Follow Up Individual Mentor*' assigned to each beneficiary will be in charge of monitoring the progress of the objectives proposed and the 'Acceleration Program Committee' will validate the deliverables submitted by each beneficiary indicating if they are apt, or not, to go to next phase.

For more information about the general deliverables/objectives assigned to each stage, consult the "**Guide for Applicants**".

6 Questions related with IMPACT Acceleration Suite

6.1 Are all activities included in the Acceleration Program compulsory?

All activities included in the '*Individual Mentoring Plan*' of each beneficiary are compulsory.

6.2 Are all projects required to go through the training process?

Yes, your project is UNIQUE and also your training needs. The IMPACT team will help you identify your needs and those of your team, providing the means for you to receive the training that will add value to the project.

6.3 Is it mandatory to move our business to Spain or Italy for the acceleration process?

No, it isn't. Every beneficiary can operate in their home country. The mentoring is done remotely or in your country.

You only will have to move in three specific moments during the whole process: for the Jury Day during the selection phase, and for the "Welcoming Week" and for the "Demo Day", during the acceleration programme, if you are selected as beneficiary.

6.4 Does IMPACT offer co-working spaces for beneficiaries?

If you are interested IMPACT has signed agreements with entities, which will offer beneficiaries office spaces at attractive rates.

6.5 Are all activities included in the Acceleration Program covered by the Program?

Yes, all the activities included in the Acceleration Program are free of charge for beneficiaries. You will only have to pay your travel and accommodation cost related to the in-situ events (Jury day, Welcoming Week and Demo Day)