

SAFIR *Youth in action*

Presentation of the Call for Applications for Incubators/Accelerators

Safir is an ambitious project supporting youth and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 9 countries across North Africa and the Middle East. Co-funded by the European Union, it aims at creating an environment that enables youth participation and of the development of entrepreneurial projects with social, cultural and environmental impact.

Safir is built around 3 pillars: **provide support to more than 1,000 young project leaders, develop a regional network of organisations supporting social entrepreneurship, and foster the creation of spaces for dialogue between youth and governmental authorities.**

Website: www.safir-eu.com

Project period: March 2020 – February 2024

Countries of intervention: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya¹, Morocco, Palestine, Syria², Tunisia

For any specific question, candidates are invited to contact the following e-mail address:
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Framework of the Call for Applications

Supporting youth projects, incubators and accelerators provide a space for innovative actions in favour of sustainable development. They answer the dual need for professional integration and civic participation of young people who face mass unemployment, increasing inequalities, ecological and environmental threats, insecurity and a lack of representation in media and public life.

More and more of structures are emerging in those countries, they are often led by very committed young people. However, they are insufficiently connected, both at local, regional and international levels. They also suffer from heterogeneous levels of professionalization which hinders the development of supported projects.

The 8 selected incubators/accelerators will benefit from capacity reinforcement and support programs. The incubator/accelerator will be integrated in a regional network with the

¹ Player in Libya (subject to the agreement of the European Commission) and/or the Libyan diaspora

² Player from Syria and/or the Syrian diaspora

aim to facilitate pooling of best practices and effectively promoting social economy in the region.

Grant awarded: 80,000 euros (which must represent a maximum of 90% of the total budget proposed by the incubator/accelerator for the implementation of the activities)

Activities of the call period: September 2020 to October 2023 (provisional end date)

Countries of activities implementation: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia

Information on the Call for Applications

8 incubators/accelerators will be selected, with geographical representation between the 7 countries where the activities are implemented.

Open call for application from 19th May until 26th June 2020

Selection process:

1. Online application form
2. Pre-selection
3. Request for additional documents regarding project's prerequisites
4. Online interviews if deemed necessary
5. Selection/Rejection letters
6. Signature of the contract between the Institut français and the grantee

Selection criteria:

- Organizational and management capacities (presentation of the Incubator/accelerator) / 25 points
- Previous experience of the Incubator/accelerator in similar activities to those of Safir / 25 points
- Previous experience in Safir's social impact fields (youth, active citizenship, civic participation and SDGs) / 25 points
- Interest in joining the Safir project / 25 points
- Applications from incubators/accelerators located outside of capital cities are strongly encouraged.

Essential prerequisites for the project

- Organisation's legal existence (at least one year)
- Demonstrated experience in managing grants: **the average annual cost of the project should not exceed 70% of the beneficiary's annual budget.**
Ex: for an organization whose annual budget is equal to € 100,000, the total amount of the project must not exceed € 70,000 on average per year, i.e. a total of € 210,000 over 36 months.
 Preselected organisations will be invited to submit:
 - Their financial reports for 2018 and 2019
 - Their operational budget for 2020
 - A budget proposal for activities' implementation: The Institut français' grant (€80,000) must represent maximum 90% of the estimated budget for the operation, with a co-financing rate of at least 10% by the grantee
- Economic sustainability: the applicant's financing plan provides sufficient sources of funding - besides the grant - to implement the activities throughout the entire duration of the project
- Demonstrated experience in the thematic areas of the current call for applications
- Languages: fluency in at least two of the three languages of the project : Arabic and English and/or French
- Applicants must not be registered on the list of European Union restrictive measures

Activities to be implemented by selected organizations

Networking and capacity building of selected incubators/accelerators:

- **Creation of a regional incubators/accelerators Network:**
 - Integration of the selected incubators/accelerators into a regional network
 - Participation in 4 regional events related to youth and South-South mobility of project leaders to these events
- **Consolidation of work methodology and capacity building programs of selected incubator/accelerator:**
 - Diagnosis of the needs in terms of capacity building of selected incubators/accelerators
 - Skills strengthening of the incubator/accelerator, through a support program.

- Face-to-face training
- Online training

Support for the creation of innovation spaces for young people in Universities (Higher Education Institutions):

- **Advice and support of Universities :**
 - Participation in the diagnosis of local needs and requirements of the Universities
 - Practice-based training to Universities
 - Assistance in the design of the student support program
 - Assistance in organizing SDG awareness sessions
 - Assistance in the development of an annual program of citizenship events

Networking, incubation and acceleration of young project leaders by the selected incubators/accelerators (by chronological order):

- **Support young project leaders by the selected incubator/accelerator (period : 1 month)**
 - Launch of the call for applications and selection of 450 project leaders (225 project leaders in 2020 and 225 in 2022), to be divided among the 8 selected incubators/accelerators
 - Organization of training workshops run by the incubator/accelerator for young project leaders
 - Final report
- **Reinforced incubating programme for 90 project leaders to be run by the incubators/accelerators (period : 6 month)**
 - Selection of 90 project leaders (45 project leaders in 2021 and 45 project leaders in 2022/2023), to be divided among the 8 selected incubators/accelerators
 - Monthly support and mentoring by incubator/accelerator
 - Submission of project monitoring sheets
 - Submission of final report
- **Acceleration programme for 45 young project leaders (period : 6 month)**
 - Selection of at least 45 project leaders (funding committee at the end of the incubation program, in 2021 and 2023), to be divided among the 8 selected incubators/accelerators
 - European Session in 2021 and 2023
 - Development of an acceleration programme for the beneficiaries

- Follow-up, with the consortium partners, of the financing of the selected projects (grants will be paid by the Institut français, the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie and Canal France International)
- Final report

Access to financial support:

- 80 000€ per selected incubator/accelerator, paid by the Institut français, for the implementation of the activities. This support must represent a maximum of 90% of the total budget for the proposed activities (the incubators/accelerators must co-finance at least 10% of the total budget).
- The total cost of the project may not represent more than 70% of the total budget of the incubator/accelerator for 2018, 2019 and 2020.
- A grant agreement will be signed between the beneficiary and the Institut français to record the payment of the financial support.

Provisional timetable for the first two years (2020-2021)

	Beginning	End
Networking and capacity building of selected incubators/accelerators	September 2020	October 2023
Support the creation of innovation spaces for young people in Universities (Higher Education Establishments)	According to needs assessed during the diagnostic (start date to be confirmed)	
Networking, incubation and acceleration of young project leaders by the selected incubators/accelerators	Décember 2020	Décember 2021

Safir partners in charge of overseeing the implementation of activities

L’Institut français - Acting as Safir project leader, the Institut français is a public institution responsible for French cultural actions abroad. Its initiatives cover various artistic fields, intellectual exchanges, cultural and social innovation, and linguistic cooperation. Throughout the world, it promotes the French language, as well as the mobility of artworks, artists and ideas, and thus works to foster cultural understanding.



Lab'ess – First Tunisian social incubator and co-founder of the Social and Solidarity Economy network "Chabaka.tn", Lab'ess aims to actively contribute to the sustainable development of social innovation actors and to effectively respond to socio-economic needs in Tunisia.

Pitchworthy/AltCity Impact – Pitchworthy is a Lebanese accelerator that runs social entrepreneurship and mentorship programs and workshops and supports more than 350 social enterprises since 2015.

The Safir Project undertakes to implement the appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect your personal data against, in particular, alteration, dissemination or unauthorised access, and to preserve their total confidentiality.

