WORTH II

Call for Expressions of Interest

Guide for Applicants

Last version: 25 Oct 2022

WORTH Partnership Project is funded by
COSME Programme of the European Union for
the competitiveness of Enterprises and Small
and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)

Content

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1. WORTH Overview

WORTH Partnership Project fosters connection opportunities for designers, crafters, SMEs and tech firms, supported by EISMEA to encourage partnerships from lifestyle industries to:

- Enhance competitiveness, new designs and creations
- Integrate technologies in SMEs
- Foster new, innovative or high-added value products, processes or services developed in collaboration.

WORTH II is Europe's largest incubator programme for creatives, offering:

- Market-based financial support to develop innovative products, services or business models with high value-added.
- A coaching programme and advisory services tailored to the needs and gaps of the different partnerships aimed to provide the beneficiaries with targeted support to enhance the market potential of the ideas.
- Market-positioning and professional links between awarded partnerships and other key players by organising networking activities and participating in relevant design events and exhibitions to showcase the project's results.

2. Objectives of the Call

The objective of the Call is to strengthen the competitiveness of SMEs in lifestyle industries and increase their innovation capacities through cross-sectoral, pan-European collaborations between SMEs, designers and technology providers to foster the integration of creativity, design and new technologies in SMEs to obtain high added-value products, processes and services and at the same time enriching them with the exchange of knowledge and skills between the different actors involved.

In particular, **the second call of WORTH II is dedicated** to design solutions that contribute in an innovative and creative way to the objectives such as *circular economy, transition towards more sustainable production and consumption; advanced digitised manufacturing, digitised value chains and business models; social innovation and social inclusion; European cultural heritage preservation for social cohesion and well-being, reinvention of craftsmanship; shaping a new generation of innovators, entrepreneurs, professionals and citizens through innovative training and re-skilling tools; unique and disruptive design approaches; bolstering the EU single market, use of innovative materials, among other challenges that matter to communities.* Furthermore, the alignment with the following additional objectives is considered an asset and brings additional value to the project: **1)** *the need to push for green and digital transition of lifestyle industries; 2) the need to aim at efficient use of energy and resources of lifestyle industries; 3) the need to reduce the carbon footprint of lifestyle industries.*

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By applying to the WORTH Open Call, your project partnership will be a candidate to get the following features of incubation support:

1.   Financial support to awarded partnerships projects (10.000, 15.000 and 20.000€). The lump sum will be allocated according to the scheme described in section 7 of this document.

2.   Tailor-made coaching to participants on technical and business skills to enhance the market readiness level of the project.

3.   Provision of tailored professional links and market positioning between participants and other players (buyers, retailers, financial intermediaries, investors and media) by organising networking activities and international events and providing links with key stakeholders. To trigger further potential actions, business cooperation and access to finance.

4.   Facilitating access to the market through the participation of each of the partnerships in two relevant exhibitions or events to showcase the projects' results.

The standard project's duration is set at ten months.

The second call for proposals opens on October 25th 2022 and will close on the 15th of February, 2023. The official launch of the project took place virtually. The call was also announced on social networks, through press releases, the WORTH website and the newsletter.

3. Eligibility Criteria (Who can apply?)

Eligibility Criteria

I.   Eligible partners:
 	
 To be eligible, the partners (lead applicants and partners) must:
 	
 a)   be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.: (*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*), **COSME associated countries** (*Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine*) *or the United Kingdom.*
 b)   be legal entities forming a consortium, including:
    a.   SME under the EU definition (Staff headcount <250 and either Turnover<= €50M or Balance sheet total <=€43M). SME companies must be legally established for at least six months before the signature of the partnership agreement
    b.   self-employed professionals. They must be legally established according to the laws of each participating country, as of the signature of the grant agreement and at least during the whole duration of their project implementation
    c.   private non-for-profit organisations
    d.   private for-profit organisations
    e.   other entities, such as universities, research organisations, design labs etc., if justified as relevant to the project
 	
 c)   be active in any **eligible lifestyle industry sectors**: *textile/fashion, footwear, leather/fur, furniture/home decoration/interior design/architecture, jewellery, and accessories;* and have any of the following **business activities**: *design, manufacturing/craftsmanship, technology development*
 d)   Partners must not be in the process of receivership or bankruptcy.
 	
 Notes:
    -   Large companies are not eligible.
    -   The lead applicants and partners must complete a registration form where these eligibility criteria will be checked.

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II.   **Eligible partnerships**

a) Applications must be submitted by partnerships consisting of a minimum of two and a maximum of three **eligible partners**.

b) Partnerships must be **transnational**, meaning members must come from **at least two different EU or COSME-associated countries or the United Kingdom.**

c) Each partnership will nominate a lead applicant. **The lead applicant can only be an SME or a self-employed professional**.

d) At least two of the following **roles** must be represented in the partnership: *i) designer/creative; ii) manufacturer/crafter/maker, iii) technology developer/technology supplier/technology owner; However, the role of i) designer/creative is mandatory for each eligible partnership.*

e) Partnerships must address solutions for the **eligible lifestyle industry sectors,** including *textile/fashion, footwear, leather/fur, furniture/home decoration/interior design/architecture, jewellery, and accessories.*

f) Applicants can only participate in one submitted application per call.

g) Already awarded under previous WORTH calls can participate in future calls only if the project idea is completely different from the one awarded in previous WORTH.

h) The technology provider/owner/supplier must own or have the right to use the relevant technologies to be applied freely[1]

4. How to apply?

Registration

All designers, SME manufacturers, crafters, technology providers/owners must register on the WORTH project submission system (EMS platform - https://worth.ems-carsa.com). The registration form will consist of 3 parts:

- General Information
- Confirmation of Eligibility Criteria
- Selection of relevant keywords to describe activities, interests of organisation/company

Matchmaking

While the registration is completed individually, the application must be in partnership. Therefore, a matchmaking option will be available on the EMS platform upon registration for the applicants who are searching for a partner.

The matchmaking may occur in three different ways:

It may be **self-arranged,** for partners who already know each other. They must register and pass the eligibility check individually and then prepare and submit the partnership proposal. See the EMS platform user manual available on the helpdesk area.

Participants can also use the **partner search tool** featured on the EMS platform. During registration, designers, SME manufacturers, crafters, and technology providers/owners will be asked to fill in all necessary information about their profiles followed by the selection of keywords. After the completion of the registration process, partners will be prompted to the matchmaking/partner search tool on the EMS platform - where they can start searching for partners by using keywords and the search engine by *country, sector, technology, product,*

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[1] At the stage of the application, no official proof will be requested. However, all technology providers/owners will be asked to submit supporting documents confirming either their ownership or the right to use freely the relevant technologies at the later stage of the final evaluation, selection and validation in case they become finalists.

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process, service, expertise, hashtags, etc. The applicants will be able to find information on potential project partners registered on the platform and then begin to contact them to discuss/propose a partnership. More information will be found in the EMS platform user manual available on the helpdesk.

Partners can also request support from the consortium to find a suitable partner to work with. To this end, participants may contact the team at projects@worthproject.eu. When scouting/searching for a right partner, the matchmaking facilitators will consider the needs/preferences/objectives of the applicant(s) – to identify potential synergies. The Consortium will present different options for the applicant's consideration. If the partner's profile sought is unavailable on the WORTH registration database, the Consortium may assist in the search outside the database.

Preparation and submission of partnership applications
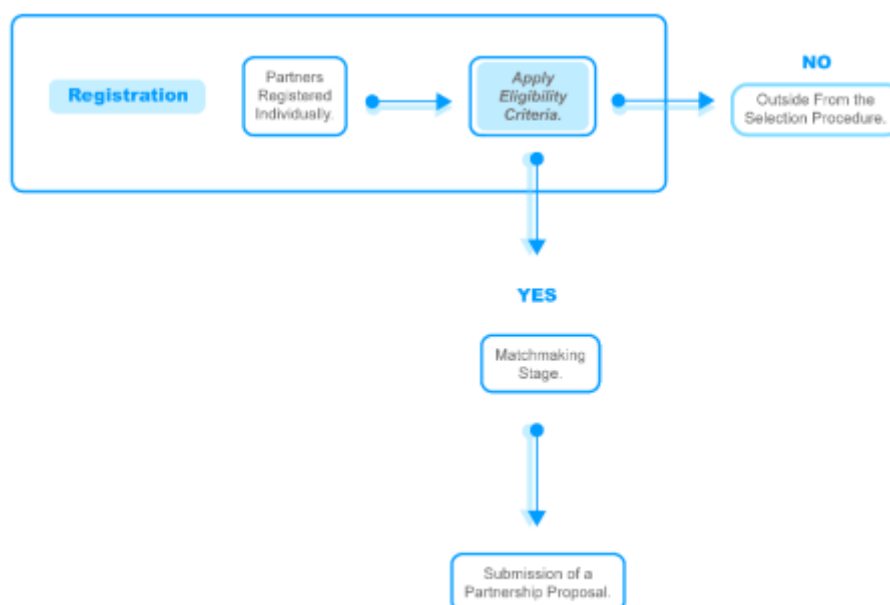
Application template

Partnerships must prepare a technical description of the project they propose. The template is available here, however this can only be submitted through the EMS platform. The technical proposal consists of 4 main parts:

a) Applicants' potential for growth and added value of the cooperation;
b) Level of innovation and creativity. Contribution to more beautiful, sustainable and inclusive environments. Feasibility, added value, scalability and sustainability of the results;
c) Market potential; and
d) Commitment.

The evaluation criteria are related Evaluation will be done for those 4 main sections:

1. Applicants' potential for growth and added value of the cooperation
The applicants must describe the activities carried out by each partner and their background; the complementarities between the partners and the added value brought to the project.

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2. Level of innovation and creativity. Contribution to a more beautiful, sustainable, and inclusive living environments. Feasibility, added value, scalability and sustainability of the results
The applicant must describe the innovation capacity of the proposed project and explain the maturity level of the technology or business to be applied or used.
3. Market potential
This criterion will assess if the partnership is aware and has an idea of basic market information, such as *the goal after the project period? Commercialisation channels, competitors, the gap in the market to bridge, users'/customers' profiles.*
4. Commitment
The applicant must describe how WORTH may impact their business/career in terms of turnover, employment, internationalisation, access to new markets, and other career opportunities. Why should WORTH support the project idea?? What is the story behind the project? What inspires them? And how clear the project idea is to contribute to the objectives of the call, such as *circular economy, transition towards more sustainable production and consumption; advanced digitised manufacturing, digitised value chains and business models;* [social innovation and social inclusion]*; European cultural heritage preservation for social cohesion and well-being, reinvention of craftsmanship; shaping a new generation of innovators, entrepreneurs, professionals and citizens through innovative training and re-skilling tools; unique and disruptive design approaches; bolstering the* [EU single market]*, use of innovative materials, among other challenges that matter to communities.* Furthermore, the alignment with the following additional objectives is considered an asset and brings additional value to the project.: 1) *the green and digital transition; 2) efficient use of energy and resources; 3) reduction of the carbon footprint.*

Language of the applications

All applications must be submitted only in English. Applications drafted in another language will not be eligible.

Submission of the application

The application can be submitted only by one of the partners (the one appointed as lead partner): either a designer, SME manufacturers, crafters, technology providers/owners. The organisation who creates the application proposal in the EMS platform will act from that moment on as the lead partner and will be the only allowed to edit and submit the application. Its counterpart will have access to the application content (and proposal), but will not be able to edit nor submit it.

All applications must be submitted only through the WORTH II electronic submission system (EMS platform) within the given timeframe of the Call. Late applications will not be accepted.

The WORTH II project submission system (EMS platform)

The WORTH II electronic submission system ([EMS platform]) is a platform used for the registration of applicants, matchmaking, submission and evaluation of applications. The EMS platform manual will be available at the helpdesk of the platform for any applicant to answer any doubt about the submission.

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5. Evaluation and selection of applications
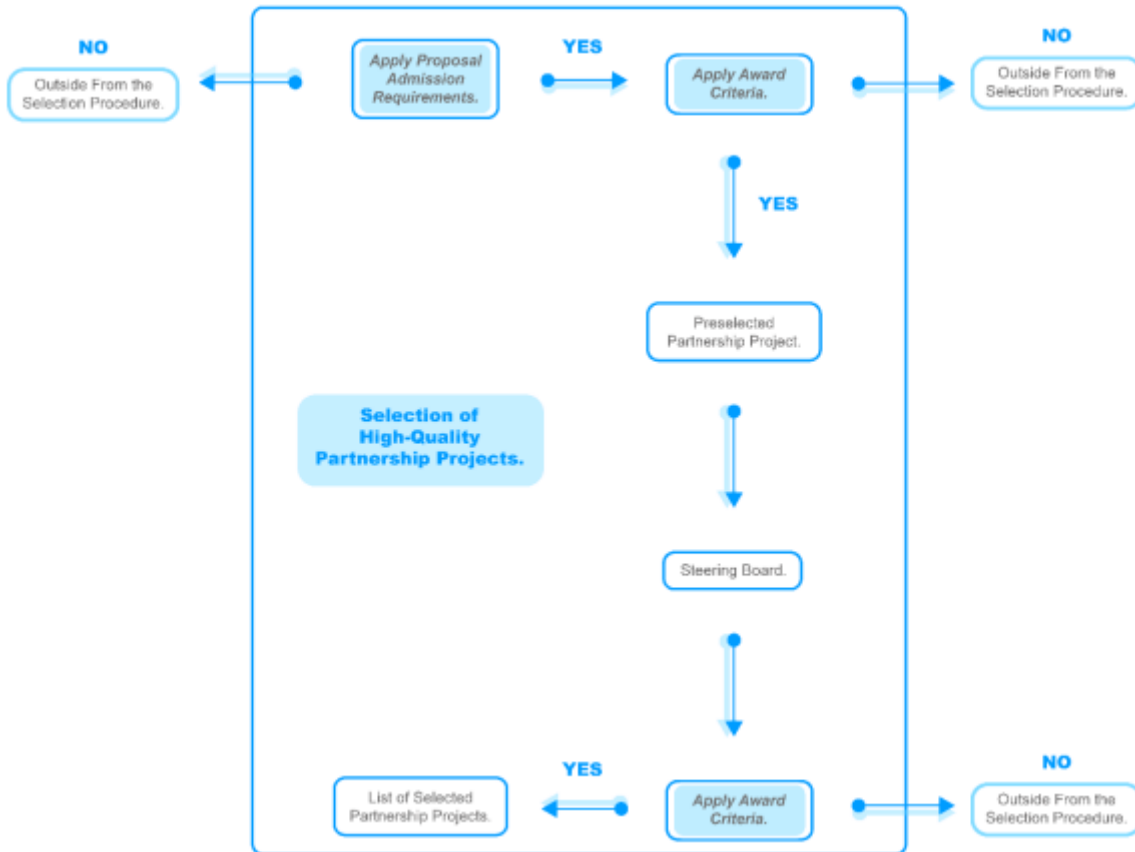
Evaluation process

All submitted applications will be evaluated first against the admission and eligibility criteria and then against the award criteria. These criteria are described below:

Admission criteria

Admission Criteria
1) Project proposals must be submitted **in full administrative conformity** (in due time, through the EMS platform, and including all the application documentation/forms duly completed).
2) Project proposals must be submitted in English only.

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Award criteria

Category	Criteria Group	Sub-criteria and assessment questions associated	Analysis
Quality of the partnership **(20 points)**	Organisational and technical capacity of the partnership Max: 20 points	**Applicants' technical capacity - 5 points** To what extent do applicants have the proven experience/expertise and competence in the thematic field concerned? as well as the necessary capacity to successfully implement the idea.	Excellent (5 points) Fair (3 points) Inadequate (0 points)
		The added value of the cooperation - 15 points It will assess the quality of the collaboration, which are the complementary skills that they bring to the partnership. The potential to increase the innovation capacity of makers (manufacturers and crafters) due to the intervention of creative professionals (designers/creatives) and/or tech providers will be analysed. This criterion will also assess the project impact on their business strategy. The budget breakdown must reflect a real partnership collaboration. Applicants must explain why they are the right team for the job, and what competencies/talents they bring to the table that can bring this project the right level of quality. Previous experience in the development of solutions addressing relevant challenges will be considered, but not mandatory. The applicant may address this criterion in a portfolio. Through this criterion, it is assessed the maturity and the management capacity of the team to successfully develop the idea within the project duration as well as the capacity to drive the project outcome to the target market in the near future upon its development within WORTH.	Excellent (15 points) Good (12 points) Fair (8 points) Poor (4 points) Inadequate (0 points)

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Category	Criteria Group	Sub-criteria and assessment questions associated	Analysis
Quality and relevance of the project idea **40 points**	Excellence and innovation potential of the proposed idea Max: 20 points	Added value of the proposed project. The partnerships should demonstrate the value added by the idea and its integration/application in any manufacturing process or another relevant environment. To which extent the technique/technology/service/product developed or implemented is innovative and disruptive. The uniqueness of the idea should be assessed through this criterion. Excellence seeks to assess whether the idea delivers the right solution for a concrete and well-studied problem/gap/need. Proposals must deliver an innovative and design-oriented idea that reflects the integration of design and creative aspects to the solution proposed: an **innovative** product, prototype, service or business model in the lifestyle industry value chain. The idea must show a clear advance or innovation in comparison to what is already existing on the market. The proposal must clearly point out whether the innovation lies in either the optimisation or use of new materials, processes (including operating conditions and machinery), methods/techniques. The selection will be based on the excellence of the proposed idea to address the identified challenge.	Excellent (20 points) Good (15 points) Fair (10 points) Poor (5 points) Inadequate (0 points)
	Relevance of the project idea: Contribution to the objectives of the call Max: 20 points	This criterion will **assess to what extent** the design solution contributes in an innovative and creative way to the objectives of the call, such as *circular economy, transition towards more sustainable production and consumption; advanced digitised manufacturing, digitised value chains and business models; social innovation and social inclusion; European cultural heritage preservation for social cohesion and well-being, reinvention of craftsmanship; shaping a new generation of innovators, entrepreneurs, professionals and citizens through innovative training and re-skilling tools; unique and disruptive design approaches; bolstering the EU single market, use of innovative materials, among other challenges that matter to communities.* The solutions must be in one of the areas of lifestyle industries, such as *textile/fashion, footwear, leather/fur, furniture/home decoration/interior design/architecture, jewellery, and accessories.* Furthermore, the alignment with the following additional objectives is considered an asset and brings additional value to the project.: 1) *the green and digital transition; 2) efficient use of energy and resources; 3) reduction of the carbon footprint* **- 20 points**	Excellent (20 points) Good (15 points) Fair (10 points) Poor (5 points) Inadequate (0 points)

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Category	Criteria Group	Sub-criteria and assessment questions associated	Analysis
Prospective Analysis: Market potential and sustainability of the expected results **40 points**	Feasibility of the project results Max: 20 points	**Sustainability of the project results - 10 points** This criterion will assess if the expected outcome is feasible and achievable according to a realistic work plan, as well as whether its implementation is feasible in a very well-identified context and application environment. This criterion will also evaluate if the outcome developed within WORTH has the potential to successfully be further developed through scalability/implementation and achievement of a sustainable result in the long term. The value proposition of the solution developed should clearly be identified. The applicants should present an overview of the implementation phases beyond WORTH. **Impact sought from WORTH - 10 points** This criterion will assess the motivation of the partnership shown in the project story video. Why should WORTH support the project idea? How the intervention of WORTH will significantly impact the different areas of the project development: i.e. Participants' businesses/career in terms of turnover, employment, internationalisation, access to new markets, other opportunities? What is the story behind the project? What inspires them?	Excellent (20 points) Good (15 points) Fair (10 points) Poor (5 points) Inadequate (0 points)
	Market potential Max: 20 points	**Potential for commercialisation - 10 points** This criterion will assess if the partnership is aware and has an idea of basic market information such as: *what is the goal after the project period? Commercialisation channels, competitors, the gap in the market to bridge, users'/customers' profile.* Does the proposal have the potential for brand creation, plans for internationalisation, new market orientation? **Market impact - 10 points** This criterion will assess if the proposal properly addresses the target market, if the description provided is realistic. The defined business use case and expected market growth potential for the application of the innovation. It will assess if the proposal identified in a proper way the risks from market perspective.	Excellent (20 points) Good (15 points) Fair (10 points) Poor (5 points) Inadequate (0 points)

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Selection process

The selection will be performed following the 2 phases depicted in the figure below:

Phase 1: Pre-selection. An internal committee will evaluate the project proposals according to the award criteria. All the projects above 70 points will be considered outstanding. They will be part of the list of pre-selected projects since it is considered that they address relevant quality and innovation aspects to a large extent. Projects scored above the threshold but not marked as outstanding (between 60-70 points) will be subject to a **decision-making process** before a possible inclusion in the list of pre-selected partnerships. Only at this stage, aspects such as geographical and sectoral balances will be considered and only projects scored between 60 and 70 points will be subject to this process.

Phase 2: Selection and validation. A Steering Board (SB) of experts will assess the pre-selected projects according to the award criteria. Each partnership project will now be evaluated by two experts of the SB. The outcome of this phase will be a ranking of proposals based on the final scores achieved. The projects that pass this evaluation phase will become finalist projects. To ensure transparency and avoid bias, the results of the internal evaluations will not be shared with the experts of the SB.

The overall threshold will be 60 (out of 100) - calculated considering each criterion's weight.

All the projects scored above the threshold will be ranked. Project proposals that scored below the threshold will become unsuccessful.

From there, based on the evaluation, the projects scored above the threshold will be required to participate in the final assessment interview with at least one expert of the Steering Board. The format of the validation session will be determined in due time since this may take place either online or on-site.

A programme of final assessment interviews will be organised per call. The projects that pass this evaluation phase become **finalist projects.**

During the final assessment interviews, each finalist partnership will present their ideas and sketches to the Steering Board. Finalists will also have the occasion to address the concerns pointed out by the Steering Board. The finalists will benefit from expert feedback and advice on their proposals/ideas.

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In case the interviews are organised online, professional virtual platforms such as Professional Zoom or Microsoft Teams will be used to allow virtual meeting rooms and simultaneous connections for all the attendees.

In case the interviews take place on-site, **finalists will also be allowed to participate remotely, which will not jeopardise their chances to be selected.**

As part of the accompanying process implemented throughout the evaluation process, all the finalist partnerships invited to attend the validation session will be provided with the evaluation remarks and feedback as well as the guidelines to successfully address any shortcoming pointed out by the Steering Board in the previous evaluation phase.

The final assessment interview is intended to identify any critical shortcoming that cannot be addressed through the mentoring programme. The decision on the lump sum allocated to each project will be made by the SB at the end of the interview.

The output of the final assessment interviews will be the list of projects recommended to receive support. The list will also include the lump sum recommendation for each project. The results will be presented to the Contracting Authority EISMEA-DG GROW in a final selection and validation session, who will validate and approve the decision of the Steering Board.

The Contracting Authority will be involved as observers throughout the end-to-end evaluation process.

All admissible project proposals will be notified of the evaluation outcomes via email. The notification letter will include the evaluation summary report. The evaluation will also be available on the private section "My area" of the applicant on EMS platform.

The process and the meetings/exchanges between the Steering Board members will also be documented.

A reserve list of up to 10 proposals that scored very well or above the threshold but were not included in the list of selected projects will be defined only during the 3rd call final selection and validation session. These proposals could potentially become selected/awarded projects only if any of the initially selected projects later withdraw, declines or fail to reach an agreement during the formalisation process. Reserve-listed projects and the respective position of priority will be recommended by the Steering Board.

A global list of the status of all project proposals received will be maintained on the EMS platform and sent to EISMEA. The list will categorise the projects according to their status and will include key information on each proposal (including the proposal name, project partners, abstract, score, countries, sector(s)).

Category	Description
Passed	Project proposals that scored above the threshold (but were not included in the shortlist of pre-selected projects following the decision-making process).
Failed	Project proposals that scored below the threshold.
Inadmissible	Project proposals that does not meet the admissibility requirements.
Pre-selected	Project proposals that enter the shortlist of pre-selected projects recommended by the internal committee – which includes all the outstanding proposals (at least 70 points) and the proposals scored above the threshold (after considering geographical and sectoral balance and applying the decision-making process).
Rejected by the Steering Board	The project proposals that were short-listed/pre-selected by the internal committee – but rejected by the assigned 2 Steering Board members.

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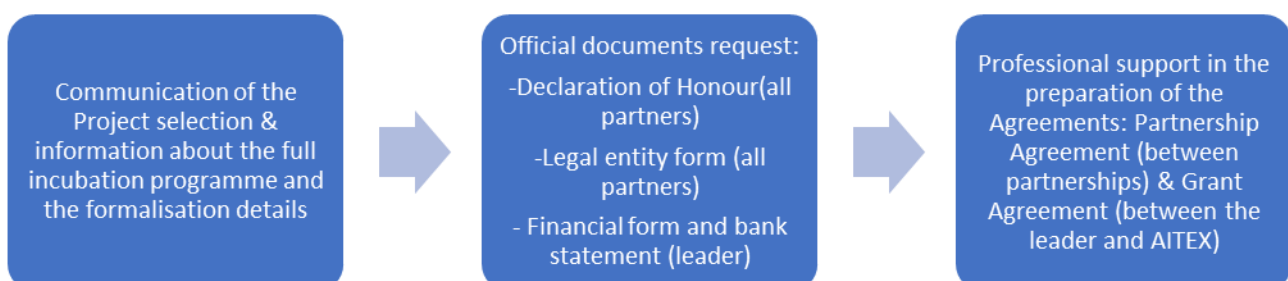| Unsuccessful finalist project	Unsuccessful projects upon the final assessment interview due to the identification of critical shortcomings.
Selected partnerships	Projects approved by the Contracting Authority to be awarded.
Cancelled/withdrawal	Any proposal that later withdraws, rejects the award or fails to reach an agreement during the formalisation of the partnership.
Reserve-listed project	Proposals participating in the 3rd call for expression of interest that successfully address the award criteria in the final assessment interview but are not recommended for funding due to budget limitations. These proposals could potentially become selected/awarded projects only if any of the initially selected projects later withdraws their proposal, rejects the award or fails to reach an agreement during the formalisation of the partnership.

Status of the project proposals.

6. Administrative Duties

The Consortium will inform the partnership on the two types of agreements to be signed as well as on the documents to be prepared alongside the two Agreements. The Consortium will offer support to the partners in understanding the content of the Agreements, preparing the required documents, etc.

The selected partnerships will sign a Partnership Agreement between the involved parties that regulates their relationship in terms of roles and commitments, distribution of funds, IPR issues, among others… and a Grant Agreement signed by the lead partner and AITEX (WORTH Consortium Coordinator). The Grant agreement regulates the relationship between the lead partner on behalf of the partnership and AITEX (on behalf of the Consortium) and includes important points such as reporting scheme, supporting services, obligations of both parties, payments, authorisations to publish information, and so on.

The main objective of this agreement is to validate the financial and technical operational capacity of the partners and establish rules for receiving support for the WORTH II project.

All the administrative tasks required to perform by the beneficiaries throughout the project will be provided during the partnership agreement formalisation. Partnerships that fail in providing this documentation on time will be excluded.

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7. Funding Scheme

The majority of the selected projects will be awarded with the lump sum of **10.000€.**

The selected projects will be **recommended by the experts of the Steering Board** during the final selection and validation session based on the general award criteria.

A certain quota of selected projects will be granted the lump sums of 15.000€ and 20.000€. Only outstanding projects **scored overall above 85 points (out of 100), and at least 12 points (out of 20) in the criterion** *"Relevance of the project idea: Contribution to the objectives of the call"* **can be considered as candidates for these special lump sums.** As regards the allocation of 15.000 € and 20.000 € in particular, they will be reserved to **outstanding projects** that require **higher levels of investment** to reach the market and which fulfil the additional award criteria elaborated in the following table.

 The final allocation will be confirmed/approved by the contracting authority.

Applicants must not request any specific lump sum in their application but only complete the budget breakdown section of the application form according to their estimation of real costs of the project.

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	CRITERIA GROUP	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	Lump sum category 15.000 €	Lump sum category 20.000 €
A	Excellent evaluation	Candidate projects to be granted with 20.000 € or 15.000 € must have achieved an excellent score during the final evaluation. **Only projects scored overall above 85 points (out of 100) and at least 12 points (out of 20) in the criterion "Relevance of the project idea: Contribution to the objectives of the call"** can be considered. This is to ensure that the project idea is viable and fully in line with all requirements/criteria of the call; moreover, partnership has excellent organisational and technical capacity to successfully implement the project idea and skills to bring the project the right level of quality.	Criteria **A and B are of mandatory compliance** to be a candidate project for this lump sum category	Criteria **A and B are of mandatory compliance** to be a candidate project for this lump sum category
B	Market potential, market impact	**Only projects scored at least 12 points in the criterion "Market potential" (out of 20) can be considered as candidates for the allocation of the special lump sums.** Meant to projects that could reach an advanced maturity and market readiness level upon the intervention of WORTH. There must be market growth potential for the design solution developed. Projects must demonstrate that the outcome developed will reach (or will be very close to reaching) a fully validated product/service that meets regulatory/quality compliance. This must be accompanied by the existence of a fully developed business and go-to-market strategy/plan and the necessary operational capacity. This criterion is assessed to ensure that the projects have achieved a high investment readiness and will tackle the market successfully.		
C	Materials to be employed and/or Technologies used	The partnerships will specify in the proposal the types and amount of materials needed to develop the prototype, as well as the market prices and the associated sourcing, procurement as well as maintenance costs (if relevant). The partnerships will define in the proposal the need for any technology/equipment/software acquisition or upgrade/update, its relevance, and appropriateness for the development of the outcome. Partnerships must present a budget, estimate the dedication to the project (%), and amortization. The Steering Board will consider positive: *a) when the employment of material and technology are well thought out and efficient with regard to the project's objectives; b) when the partnership provides a sound estimation of costs; c) when the partners are committed to covering the extra costs to ensure the implementation of the project in case the support granted by WORTH covers only part of the estimated costs; d) when the partnership have the necessary degree of knowledge to use the employed materials/technology in the most efficient way.*	**At least 2** of the criteria C, D, E, must be met by the candidate project to be considered for this lump sum category	Criteria **C, D, E, are of mandatory compliance** to be a candidate project for this lump sum category
D	External services	The partnerships will define in the proposal the need to use specific external services for the development of the project. A budget estimation must be included in the budget breakdown.		
E	Business trips/ cooperation with partners or providers	The partnerships will define in the proposal the need to attend personally other facilities to carry out specific stages of the project implementation (e.g., partners' facilities, experimentation labs, research centers, etc.) and its appropriateness for the exclusive development of the project. A budget estimation will be requested. The Steering Board will consider positive: *a) when the business trips are well thought out and efficient with regard to the project's objectives; b) when the partnership provides a sound estimation of costs; c) when the partners are committed to covering the extra costs to ensure the implementation of the project in case the support granted by WORTH covers only part of the estimated costs; d) if the partnership would acquire the necessary degree of knowledge and the development/outcome of the project ensured in the most efficient way.*		

Additional award criteria for the allocation of lump sums of 15.000€ and 20.000€

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The following payment scheme will apply:

- The pre-financing instalment (30%) will be disbursed at the beginning of the project.
- An interim instalment (40%) will be effective after the approval of the mid-term report.
- The "balance" payment (30%) will be split into 2 payments, 20% after approval of the final report while the remaining 10% after the successful attendance to the exhibitions/design events.

The amount will be shared between the partners following the breakdown agreed by the Project Partners.

8. Results and Deliverables

The partnership work plan will be defined alongside the assigned mentor during the kick-off meeting.

Selected partnerships must deliver compulsory reports according to the following scheme:

1st progress report

2nd progress report

Mid-term report

3rd progress report

Final report

The mandatory content associated to each report will be advised during the official kick-off meeting of each round of selected projects.

9. Support to applicants

Frequently Asked Questions

A Frequently Asked Questions section is available on the [website](#). The section is constantly updated to reflect the questions received.

Helpdesk

Applicants may contact the WORTH II helpdesk should they wish to receive further information on the Call for Expression of Interest content and conditions.

✉ Email address: helpdesk@worthproject.eu

10. Data privacy policy

The WORTH II project is fully compliant with the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data. The WORTH II Consortium is responsible for the personal data processing, under automated and analogical means, since its collection, through its organisation and storage, up to its deletion. The WORTH II Consortium keeps a continuous and thorough registry of all its personal data processing activities. The applicants´ data will be

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retained in the WORTH II archives until the end of the project activities for which the applicants submitted their applications. No transfer of the personal information will take place to an organisation or a country unless there are adequate controls in place including security of the data and other personal information.

The WORTH II Consortium welcomes any inquiries and comments regarding Data Privacy Policy (**formalisation@worthproject.eu**). The applicant has the right to receive information regarding how personal data is stored and managed by the Consortium. The applicant has also the right to erase any personal data.

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