

+PLUS FUND RULES

Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa (SCML), specifically through Casa do Impacto, has contributed to the enhancement and strengthening of the national ecosystem of entrepreneurship and impact, through different initiatives and programmes that support the creation and implementation of innovative solutions with social and/or environmental impact.

Since its inception in late 2018, Casa do Impacto has opened its doors to new approaches, processes and players, becoming a centre for aggregating resources and partners, promoting and supporting entities from various sectors, ideas and projects from entrepreneurs and social economy organisations that add more value to the economy and environment as well as culture, knowledge and society as a whole.

In this context, SCML took the initiative to fill some funding gaps in this ecosystem, namely to support the implementation of innovative solutions with differentiated impact according to their degree of maturity. Hence, through Deliberation no. 229/2020 of 2 February, it created the +PLUS Fund, a funding mechanism with an annual allocation of EUR 500,000, which aims to contribute to the resolution of the most pressing social and/or environmental issues and challenges.

Benefiting from the experience gained in the meantime, the present +PLUS Fund Regulation seeks to clarify concepts, conditions and procedures to better adapt to the characteristics and financing needs of the different innovative solutions.

Reinforcing SCML's strategy of investing for impact, the dimensions of intervention and types of support of the +PLUS Fund allow the impact of innovative solutions to be tested at an early stage of implementation or to increase the impact of solutions already successfully implemented.

CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Object and purpose

1. This Regulation establishes the operating rules for the SCML initiative called the +PLUS Fund (henceforth "+PLUS Fund"), as well as the conditions and procedures for the presentation, assessment and selection of applications for the fund.
2. The +PLUS Fund aims to provide a non-repayable funding source for the implementation of innovative solutions with social and/or environmental impact, through a payment by results (PbR) mechanism.

Article 2

Dimensions of intervention

The +PLUS Fund operates along two dimensions, according to the degree of maturity of the innovative solutions:

- a) The *Testing* dimension: designed to support solutions that have not been implemented or are in the initial implementation phase, but which have already been validated as to their feasibility and which intend to test their social and/or environmental impact;
- b) The *Scaling* dimension: designed to towards the expansion of solutions already implemented and with proven results that want to grow their social and/or environmental impact.

Article 3

Funding levels

1. The +PLUS Fund grants non-repayable funding up to the following amounts:
 - a) In the *Testing* dimension: up to EUR 50,000.00 (fifty thousand euros);
 - b) In the *Scaling* dimension: up to EUR 100,000.00 (one hundred thousand euros).
2. For both dimensions, funding has a minimum duration of 1 year and a maximum duration of 2 years.
3. The funding source referred to in paragraph 1 shall be exclusively granted through a payment by results mechanism (payment in instalments based on pre-established results) and subject to terms and conditions established in contract.

4. Notwithstanding the above, applications that are granted the funding benefit mentioned in no. 1, can also be granted non-financial support, if applicable, made available within the activity developed by SCML, namely through Casa do Impacto.

Article 4

Principles

The +PLUS Fund activity and operation are governed by the principles of impartiality, transparency, equality and good faith.

CHAPTER II

APPLICATIONS

Article 5

Applicants

1. Social Economy entities , as defined in Article 4 of Law No. 30/2013, of 8 May (Base Law of the Social Economy), and other private entities can apply to the +PLUS Fund, in both the *Testing* and *Scaling* dimensions, pursuant to Article 2 a) and b).
2. Individuals may also apply to the +PLUS Fund, under the *Testing* dimension, through individual or team applications.

Article 6

Application requirements

1. Applications to the +PLUS Fund must meet the following requirements, otherwise they will not be eligible for the selection process:
 - a) Refer to innovative solutions that contribute to solving social and/or environmental issues and challenges, in the *Testing* or *Scaling* dimensions under Article 2(a) and (b) respectively;
 - b) Refer to innovative solutions that contribute to the attainment of one or several UN Sustainable Development Goals - 2030 Agenda (SDGs) (<https://unric.org/en/united-nations-sustainable-development-goals/>) ;

- c) Refer to innovative solutions whose geographical scope of implementation is within portuguese territory.
 - d) The amount and duration of the funding requested for each application shall be adjusted to the nature and real needs of its implementation. However, it shall not exceed the limits defined in Article 3 (1) and (2).
 - e) Each applicant, individuals or legal entities, may submit only one application to one of the dimensions, Testing or Scaling.
- 2.** Applications will not be accepted:
- a) That have previously received other financial support of the same type, granted by SCML, namely through Casa do Impacto.
 - b) Who, regardless of their capacity, are members of the +PLUS Fund Management Team or members of the juries of the different stages of the selection process;
 - c) Submitted by public entities or belonging to the public business sector, pursuant to Decree-Law no. 133/2013, of October 3, as amended.
 - d) Submitted after the deadline stipulated in article 8, or whose application form is irregular or incomplete, as well as, without prejudice to the respective legal mechanisms, false information/declarations are provided therein.
- 3.** Applications to the +PLUS Fund should also favour the creation of project teams that reflect gender equality, intergenerational, ethno-cultural diversity or inclusion of people with disabilities, promoting equal opportunities and combating discrimination.
- 4.** Applications co-financed by other national, European Union or international financial support or social investors are allowed, as long as the amount requested under this Regulation is limited to one or more expenditure tranches not covered by other support.
- 5.** Applications from projects participating in the acceleration phase of the RISE for Impact Program of Casa do Impacto are considered eligible and automatically qualify for the selection process set forth in Article 9.

Article 7

Submission of applications

- 1.** Applications for the +PLUS Fund are submitted by expressing interest and completing the *online* form, available on Casa do Impacto website (<https://mais.scml.pt/casadoimpacto/>) as well as submission of other documentation referred therein.

2. The submission of applications to the +PLUS Fund presupposes knowledge and acceptance of the conditions expressed in this Regulation.

Article 8

Deadlines for submission of applications

1. The deadlines for submission of applications will be advertised on Casa do Impacto website as well as other SCML means of communication or dissemination.
2. SCML reserves the right not to open an application process for a specific year or for any of the dimension specified in article 2.
3. After the deadline for submission of applications, the list of applications admitted to the selection process foreseen in Article 9 will be published on the Casa do Impacto website (<https://casadoimpacto.scml.pt/>).
4. Applicants will also be notified by email of their exclusion or admission to the selection process, as provided for in article 9.

CHAPTER III

EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS

Article 9

Selection Process

1. The selection process consists of 3 stages:
 - a. Pre-selection phase,
 - b. Initial selection phase, and,
 - c. Final selection phase.
2. Only candidates who meet the requirements set out in Article 5 and applications considered eligible under Article 6 may start the selection process and enter the pre-selection phase.
3. At the pre-selection stage, applications will be chosen to move on to the initial selection stage, considering the criteria described in Article 10(a).
4. The applications that pass to the initial selection stage are chosen by the +PLUS Fund Management Team, which evaluates the documentation submitted electronically, under the terms of article 7, and may ask those responsible for the applications to clarify any doubts and send additional information it considers relevant to evaluate each application.

5. At the initial selection stage, applications will be chosen to move on to the final selection stage considering the criteria described in Article 10(b).
6. In the initial selection phase, the persons responsible for the applications will participate in activities to adapt the applications to the payment by results mechanism of the +PLUS Fund and prepare a proposal for the realization and measurement of results.
7. The applications that pass on to the final selection stage are chosen by a jury appointed by the Director of the Department of Entrepreneurship and Social Economy of SCML, who presides.
8. The Jury of the initial selection phase is composed of Advisory Board members and members of the Management Team of the +PLUS Fund, external experts and/or partners of Casa do Impacto, according to the legal terms.
9. The Jury referred to in the previous number is composed of a minimum of three elements and performs its duties on an unpaid basis.
10. In the final selection phase, the applications that will benefit from financial support from the +PLUS Fund will be chosen, considering the criteria described in article 10 b).
11. The applications that benefit from financial support are chosen by a jury appointed by SCML's Board of Directors, with its President co-opted by the remaining members.
12. The final selection jury is made up of the Director of the Department of Entrepreneurship and Social Economy of SCML and personalities of recognized merit in the fields of management, entrepreneurship, innovation, investment and sustainability.
13. The Jury referred to in the previous number is composed of a minimum of three elements and performs its duties on an unpaid basis.

Article 10

Pre-selection and selection criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- a) At the pre-selection stage:
 - i. Degree of innovation of the solution presented compared to existing solutions;
 - ii. Potential for sustainability of the solution in the market context;
 - iii. Quality of the evidence of feasibility (Testing) or effectiveness (Scaling) of the solution;
 - iv. Potential for generating (Testing) or increasing (Scaling) social and/or environmental impact;
 - v. Effective contribution to achieving the SDG 2030.

b) In the initial and final selection phases:

- I. Suitability of the candidate/team profile to carry out the proposed activities;
- II. Relevance of the value proposal;
- III. Consistency and market potential of the business model;
- IV. Quality of the proposal for the implementation and measurement of results;
- V. Adequacy of the financial support requested to the proposed activities and expected results.

Article 11

Deliberations

1. No claim or appeal may be lodged against the deliberations of the +PLUS Fund Management Team at the pre-selection stage, as well as against the Jury's deliberation at the initial and final selection stages.
2. At the end of each phase of the selection process, those responsible for the applications will be notified by email of the respective results.
3. After the Jury's deliberation in the final selection phase, and without prejudice to the notification referred to in the previous number, the +PLUS Fund Management Team prepares a final report with the results of each phase of the selection process which will be published on the Casa do Impacto website.

CHAPTER IV

FUNDING

Article 12

Value

1. The +PLUS Fund has an annual allocation of EUR 500,000.00 (five hundred thousand euros) made available by SCML for the allocation of grants in accordance with the types and limits stated in no. 1 of article 3.
2. The amount indicated in the previous number may be reinforced with donations from the public sector, as per Decree-Law no. 133/2013, of 3 October, in its current version, from the private sector or from other entities that wish to join the +PLUS Fund, under terms to be defined.

Article 13

Funding Agreement and Action Plan

1. The awarding of a grant is subject to a contract (Funding Agreement), signed by the applicants who are granted funding by the +PLUS Fund and by SCML's Head of the Department of Entrepreneurship and Social Economy.
2. The Funding Agreement shall identify the amount allocated and define the conditions, procedures, limits and deadlines necessary to implement the payment by results mechanism.
3. Signing of the Funding Agreement will be preceded by the verification of any legal conditions required to carry out the activity, legal status of the entities and/or respective applicants who are granted funding by the +PLUS Fund, as well as of their tax and social security situation.
4. The financial support from the +PLUS Fund is allocated in instalments and upon delivery of the corresponding receipt issued by those responsible for the applications receiving financial support from the +PLUS Fund.
5. The Financial Support Contract is accompanied by an Action Plan, which is annexed to it and is an integral part, in which are defined the contracted results, targets, indicators and associated evidence, based on which the instalments of financial support will be allocated by the +PLUS Fund.
6. All expenses incurred for the achievement of the results foreseen in the Financial Support Agreement are considered eligible, if they are incurred and paid within the time period approved for their realization and when foreseen in the respective Action Plan.
7. The amounts budgeted but not executed will be returned within 30 days after the end of the Financial Support Contract, unless a duly justified proposal is submitted to allocate these amounts to other activities and upon approval by the +PLUS Management Team.
8. The Action Plan attached to the Funding Agreement will also set forth, among others:
 - a) The commitments made by the applicants who are granted funding by the +PLUS Fund;
 - b) Access to materials and evidence of the material and financial execution of the applications who benefit from the grant provided by the +PLUS Fund;
 - c) The requirements as to the process and the documents to be submitted and stored and type of media;
 - d) The ownership of the intellectual and industrial property generated.

9. Verification of the material and financial implementation of the applications will be carried out by the +PLUS Fund Management Team, in accordance with the applicable Action Plan. This may be adjusted during the funding period, depending on the analysis to be jointly carried out by the applicants who are granted funding by the +PLUS Fund and the +PLUS Fund Management Team.
10. If the Action Plan requires any adjustment, this will be done on a one-off basis and may occur because of duly justified situations with the approval of SCML's Head of the Department of Entrepreneurship and Social Economy. This shall be based on a reasoned proposal from the applicants who are awarded grants by the +PLUS Fund, as long as it does not imply a substantial modification to the content of the Funding Agreement or an increase in price of the grant previously approved.
11. In the event of a breach of the Financial Support Contract, namely the terms of the Action Plan, the Director of the Department of Entrepreneurship and Social Economy of SCML shall decide on the need to return any amounts of support that have been paid in the meantime.
12. The return decision referred to in the previous number will be communicated to the SCML Board of Directors.

Article 14

Communication rules

Recipients of a grant awarded by the +PLUS Fund are bound by the rules of communication and style defined by the Casa do Impacto brand, which will be made available in writing in due course, which must be adopted in all communication documentation and in the disclosure of their activities through any channel, namely:

- a) Graphic, audiovisual and digital communication materials;
- b) Radio and Podcasts;
- c) Press;
- d) Social Networks.

CHAPTER V

ORGANISATION

Article 15

+PLUS Fund Management Team

1. The +PLUS Fund Management Team consists of:
 - a) Head of the Department of Entrepreneurship and Social Economy (DEES) of SCML, which he/she coordinates;
 - b) Members of the DEES Social Investment Unit.
 - c) Members from other DEES units and services, designated by the coordinator mentioned in a).
2. The +PLUS Fund Management Team shall:
 - a) organise and ensure the application, evaluation and selection processes, as per this Regulation;
 - b) Have a systematic file on submitted and selected applications, which should include the respective documentation;
 - c) To endeavour to ensure, under the legal terms, the support of specialists, experts or consultants, whenever they are deemed necessary for the performance of its functions;
 - d) Request from the applicants who are granted funding by the + PLUS Fund, within the agreed deadlines, the necessary elements for overseeing the material and financial implementation and for the assessment of their impact;
 - e) Propose and execute the Funding Agreement and respective Action Plan, according to Article 13;
 - f) Establish the monitoring plans for the material and financial execution of the applications who are granted funding by the +PLUS Fund, which will be associated to the contact with the respective responsible parties and the reporting tools to be used by them to report to the +PLUS Fund Management Team;
 - g) Evaluate the fulfilment of the Action Plan and proceed with the payment of the financial support instalments in the terms stipulated in the respective Contract;
 - h) Represent the +PLUS Fund, namely in relation with the entities that may support the implementation of the solutions during the funding period.

Article 16

Advisory and Strategic Board

1. The Advisory and Strategic Board is a consultative body, with the power to issue opinions and collaborate on the various dimensions of the +PLUS Fund's operation, and is appointed by SCML's Board of Directors, based on a proposal from the Director of its Entrepreneurship and Social Economy Department.

2. The Advisory and Strategic Board includes representatives from public and private entities, social investors and renowned personalities in areas of intervention related to the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. The activities of the members of the Advisory and Strategic Council are not remunerated.

CHAPTER VI

MISCELLANEOUS

Article 17

Personal data privacy and protection

1. Personal data collected in accordance with this Regulation will be used exclusively for the purpose of applications to the +PLUS Fund. In the case of applications receiving funding, also for the purpose of their implementation.
2. The entity responsible for processing personal data is Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa, abbreviated to SCML - a legal entity of public administrative interest with taxpayer number 500 745 471, and head office located at Largo Trindade Coelho, 1200-470 Lisbon.
3. Applicants to the +PLUS Fund must give their free, specific and informed consent to the processing of their personal data, without which it will not be possible to proceed with the application process.
4. Should the data owner withdraw their consent to the data processing, this will lead to the exclusion of the application.
5. Notwithstanding the preceding paragraphs, free, specific and informed consent may be requested for data processing regarding other purposes, such as the collection and assignment of image and sound rights, which shall be expressly identified on a specific form, at the time of the respective collection.
6. Data from applicants to the + PLUS Fund will be retained:
 - a) For a period of 7 (seven) years, in the case of applications who are granted funding by the +PLUS Fund;
 - b) For a period of 1 (one) year, in the case of remaining applications, as of the date of the final selection of the applications who are awarded funding from the +PLUS Fund.
7. Pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as well as Law no. 58/2019 of 8 August, data owners are ensured the right to information, access, rectification, portability, limitation of processing, opposition or deletion of their personal data. In

addition, they are entitled to withdraw their consent at any time, without compromising the lawfulness of the data processing and as long as legally prescribed conditions are verified, without prejudice to the obligation to publicize the benefits granted by the Public Administration to individuals, under Law No. 64/2013 of 27 August.

8. The rights mentioned above can be enforced by sending an e-mail to casadoimpacto@scml.pt or to dadospessoais@scml.pt as well as by letter addressed to the Data Protection Officer, at Largo Trindade Coelho, 1200-470 Lisbon.
9. Notwithstanding any other administrative or judicial remedy, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Portuguese Data Protection Authority (CNPD) or another competent supervisory authority, according to law, if you believe that the personal data processing by SCML does not comply with the applicable legislation, in accordance with this Regulation.
10. Further information on the terms, rules and conditions of personal data processing can be found in SCML's Privacy Policy, available at www.scml.pt

Article 18

Interpretation and integration of gaps

The SCML Board shall be responsible for the interpretation and integration of any gaps in this Regulation.

Article 19

Amendments

This Regulation may be amended at any time, taking effect as of the date of its publication.

Article 20

Effect

This Regulation comes into effect on the day following its approval by the SCML Board.