

# POLISH

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# CHALLENGE

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# FUND

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Call for Proposals





# Hello!

Take part in the **Call for Proposals** to the Polish Challenge Fund jointly hosted by the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland!

This activity is an effort to identify promising innovative solutions that facilitate **transfer of the Polish know-how** to have a positive impact at scale and address development challenges and immediate needs in the **Republic of Moldova** (as the negative impact of the conflict in Ukraine).



# What is the purpose?

The purpose of the Polish Challenge Fund is to identify promising innovations that **leverage Polish know-how and generate greater efficiency of UNDP programmes** in the Republic of Moldova (as the impact of the conflict in Ukraine).

- Identify solutions that generate improvement and value, especially by introducing new methods, ideas, or products.
- Support solutions that assure viability in local conditions, long-term sustainability, and potential for scale-up.
- Promote solutions to share knowledge and tackle development challenges in other countries. Engage the local partners and give them the ownership of solutions.

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# Who can participate?

The eligible Applicants include **private sector entities, research institutes and universities registered in the Republic of Poland.**

The Applicants are required to engage **local partners from the Republic of Moldova** to assure viability in local conditions. Partnership needs to be documented by Letter of Intent or Contract.



# What kind of innovations?

We recognize that innovations come in many forms, and **welcome different types of innovations** including products, services, programming approaches, operational changes, finance and market innovations or technology driven innovations, among others.

Both programmatic and operational ideas are welcome!

# At what stage should your innovation be?



## Proof of Concept

To test the proposed solutions and/or to be able to tailor-make them. When the intellectual concept behind an innovation is field-tested to gain an early, 'real-world' assessment of its potential.



## Transition to Scale

When innovations that have demonstrated small-scale success develop their model and attract partners to help fill gaps in their capacity to scale.

Your ideas can fit anywhere between stage 1 or 2 at the moment. **Every idea is valuable!**

We accept solutions, which can be used for free and/or are based on the open-data sources.

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# 01

## Green Technologies & Affordable Energy Sources

Introducing and/or improving the current state of green technologies and other smart solutions in the energy sector, which have a positive and immediate impact on local communities and industries, in the field of energy efficiency, ensuring the energy affordability, and mitigating the impacts of energy poverty for local communities in the Republic of Moldova and refugees from Ukraine.

### Examples:

- Development of partnerships and strategies to collaborate to overcome barriers and energy poverty, e.g. through peer-to-peer networks partners develop and implement strategies for clean and/or affordable energy deployment, development of the renewable and green technologies for the provision of energies to the residential networks, neighborhoods or towns, etc.
- Installations of green and affordable technologies for immediate help to the local communities and/or refugees, e.g. solar rooftops, new types of sources of the solid fuels (briquettes), etc.
- Introduction of new types of localized energy plants and energy sources, i.e. installation of heat pumps for the low-income households, etc.
- Leverage new energy-saving technologies, e.g. interior lighting improvements, rooftop unit replacements and retrofits, and the use of energy management systems, etc.
- Green technologies for energy efficiency in public buildings (e.g. managing energy efficiency, consumption and costs by intelligent motion detectors and monitoring systems).

### Outputs and Target Groups:

- Number of trained experts and/or beneficiaries (men/women).
- Number of provided technologies and/or released policy papers/strategic documents for the local institutions and/or capacity building events.
- Number of created jobs and/or opportunities for disadvantaged groups.

**What kind of challenges?**

# 02

## Digital Innovations & New Solutions for ICT Sector

Introducing and/or developing digital public services and digital public goods, including the use of open-source tools and technologies to improve and support the public service delivery, increasing people's engagement, enhancing transparency, accountability, and inclusion and, ultimately making life better for local communities in the Republic of Moldova and refugees from Ukraine.

### Examples:

- Present new concepts, tools and techniques, to support strategies, capabilities and action planning in the areas of innovation and digital government, e.g. data mapping and surveys for local governments, to integrate use of big data into statistical works and to overcome challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine;
- Mentor, source funding, test, and scale digital solutions and tools for immediate help with the long-term impact to the local communities and refugees, e.g. development and/or introduction of interactive platforms and apps for sharing the information and provision of the jobs on market, health services, social care and education, etc.
- Engagement of the local and refugee talents from the digital and ICT sectors for public good, e.g. establishment and/or development of digital labs and platforms for effective digital transformation, etc.
- Development of the capacities and creation of new job opportunities for all, including vulnerable groups and capacity developers, e.g. hackathons and events to map the data and track the impact of people mobility, energy poverty, etc.
- Introduction of technologies, and policies to fight the gender-based violence and human trafficking of refugees, e.g. introduction of multi-functional mobile application safeguards women against domestic violence, etc.

**What kind of challenges?**

# 03

## Markets, Employment, and Other Support

Encouragement of economic growth and mitigation of negative impacts of economic decline in the sectors of agriculture, market, employment, and other.

### Examples:

- Use of modern technologies and/or introduction of innovations in agriculture and food productions, e.g. innovative cultivation technologies and process management tools for introducing plants to cultivation according to new cultivation technology, etc.
- Development of knowledge and technologies that will make modern agriculture and farming more sustainable, resilient, and productive, e.g. opening of new markets and value-chains, introduction of new fertilizers and feeding systems, etc.
- Introducing new methods and technologies for fresh food sector, e.g. technologies that can help prompt sustainable and effective packaging toward fresh food options, etc.
- Encouragement of economic growth by supporting small and medium-sized businesses that invest in research and development, create new job opportunities, or enhance capacity building, etc.
- Mentoring and support to the local companies to boost the economic development and avoid the losses caused by the economic decline, i.e. establishment of partnerships for employment and production of new goods, capacity building and introduction of new skills, etc.

**What kind of challenges?**



# What are the SDGs?

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a powerful aspiration for improving our world – laying out **where we collectively need to go** and how to get there.

Select the SDGs and targets which best align to your idea, assets and priorities.



## Goal 6

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



## Goal 7

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



## Goal 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



## Goal 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



## Goal 13

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy



## Goal 15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



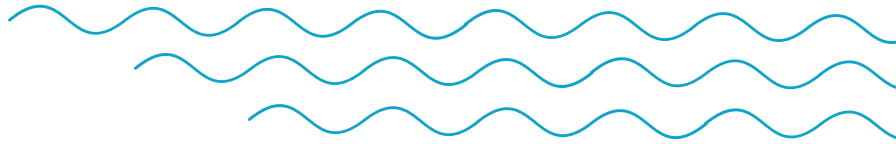
## Goal 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

When aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals, make sure to understand their underlying targets. To learn more about the SDGs, you can visit the website:

**17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

# What are the evaluation criteria?



- Degree of Innovation
- Impact and Project Quality
- Experience of the Team
- Potential for Scale-up and Replication
- Long-term Sustainability
- Scope of Bid Price
- Availability of Co-funding

## > Degree of Innovation 10%

Demonstrated by SDGs relevance and originality – i.e. new product or approach, new to local market/sector, disruptive and transferable.

## > Impact and Project Quality 20%

Demonstrated by properly set-up metrics for measurement of *development impact* (incl. sector benefits, impact on beneficiaries), and *Project quality* (incl. knowledge of local conditions and assessments preceding formulation of the Project).

## > Experience of the Team 10%

Demonstrated by practical examples/references proving relevant expertise, relevant educational and professional experience and suitable knowledge of English and local language/s.

## > Potential for Scale-up and Replication 10%

Demonstrated in scalability (incl. building on existing technology or approach, adaptable at minimum cost, addressing bigger need in market) and replicability (incl. easy to duplicate, adaptable to different regions and countries, usable in other sectors).

## > Long-term Sustainability 10%

Demonstrated in financial, social and environment sustainability, which fits the market and is valid for the long-term.

## > Scope of Bid Price 30%

Reflected in balance between the overhead costs (incl. management costs, rent, production), production costs (incl. raw materials, equipment, licensing and taxes) and delivery costs (incl. installation and trainings, travel, communication and VAT).

## > Availability of Co-funding 10%

0% for the required minimum of 20% of total Project costs, then 0.5% for every additional 1% co-funding of the total Projects costs, up to a maximum 10% = 40% co-funding of total Project costs.

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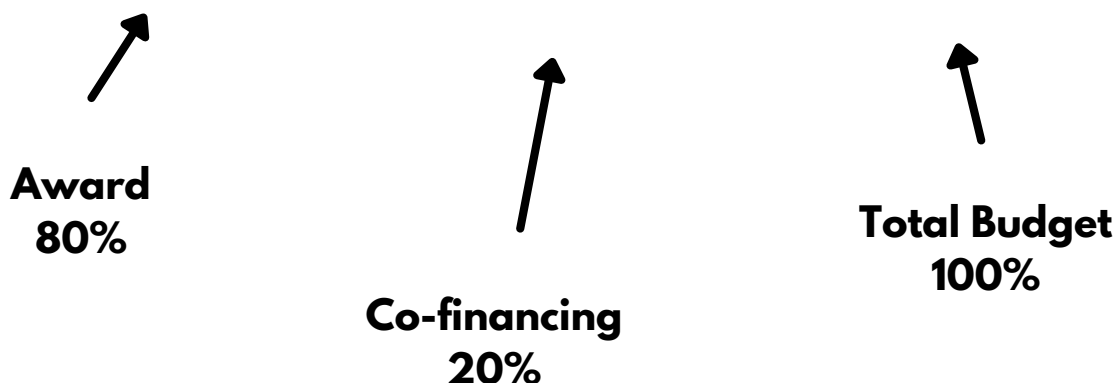
Ideas and innovations will be evaluated against all eligibility criteria, we recommend including as much information about these criteria as possible.

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# Can you provide more details on co-financing?

- The total budget of the Project, comprising of the maximum 80% for the price funding („Award“), and **minimum 20% for the matching funds** from other sources („Co-financing“).
- **Co-financing can be financial or in-kind** (e.g. a cash value of use of facilities like lab or meeting spaces, patents and licenses for use, study materials, technologies, components etc.).
- Co-financing **above the minimum threshold is preferred** and will be taken into account during evaluation: 0% for the required minimum of 20% of total Project costs, then 0.5% for every additional 1% Co-funding of the total Projects costs.
- Co-financing stated in the application and approved by the Project Board will be part of the contract as well as **monitoring and reporting** during the project implementation.
- The local partners have to be an integral part of the project team, and the project budget should cover the local needs in the Republic of Moldova).

**US\$40,000 + US\$10,000 = US\$50,000**




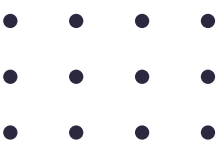


# Is there anything else we should know when considering to submit the application?

- All Projects **must be inclusive in nature**, benefit target beneficiaries, and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, rather than solely benefitting the participating Entity and its commercial interests.
- Support of the initiatives promoting the use and production of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, firearms and other dangerous substances and tools **is not allowed**.
- Only salaries and fees of experts identified in the application form are eligible for financing. **Change of experts can be done on exceptional basis and only upon approval from the Polish Challenge Fund management**, i.e. maternity/paternity leave, serious illness, etc.
- Applicants are required to **incorporate all expenses in the project budget, including the expenses related to the VAT, customs, or insurance**, among others. Budget has to be cleared and signed by the statutory representative.

## How does the contract look like?

- **Template of Award Agreement** is available [on the websites of UNDP](#).
  - Applicants are expected **to become familiar with the procedures and requirements of the template of the agreement** before they apply to the Polish Challenge Fund.
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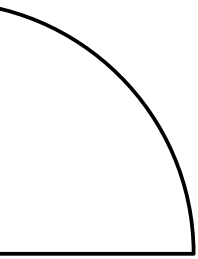


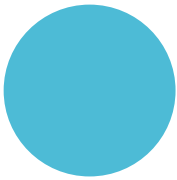
# **We have an idea!**

## **How do we submit?**

Click on the email below and send your application before the deadline. Submit it – and voilà! It's done.

**[procurement.irh@undp.org](mailto:procurement.irh@undp.org)**





# What does the winner get?

- Receive price funding ranging **between US\$20,000 and US\$40,000** for the period of 7-10 months.
- Possibility to contribute to the UNDP efforts to address the challenges and immediate needs in the Republic of Moldova (as the impact of the conflict in Ukraine).
- Possibility to access the UNDP global presence (+170 countries) and networks to help support the selected solutions to **scale-up and replicate** to new countries.
- Possibility to get **reference letters** for other public procurement and tender (after successful Project execution and completion).



## What is the deadline?

The deadline for submissions of applications is **Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. CET.**

## Do you need help?

Feel free to reach out to us at **[procurement.irh@undp.org](mailto:procurement.irh@undp.org)** at any point in the process and we will do our best to answer your questions.







## Where can we get more information?

We will be hosting **online webinar** on the underlisted dates to provide clarifications and answer any questions you might have about the Polish Challenge Fund.

➤ Wednesday 20 July 2022, 15:00 – 16:30 CET

Information on the upcoming webinar and links to register are posted **on the Zoom website**. After registration you will receive a notification with a link to join the webinar.

Recording will be published on the Polish Challenge Fund website:  
[www.polishchallengefund.org](http://www.polishchallengefund.org)

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INVITE

FAQ

June, 2022

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The Polish Challenge Fund is a component of the "**Polish-UNDP Partnership: Innovative Solutions for the SDGs**", a Programme financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland and implemented by UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub.

