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INNOVATION VOUCHERS

METABUILDING 2nd SEED CALL: Guide for applicants

DISCLAIMER:

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1. About METABUILDING

The modernization of the Construction sector is especially important as the construction industry plays an essential role in the European economy. It generates 9% of the GDP¹ of the European Union and provides 18 million jobs, which represents 31% of all industrial employment. Unfortunately, the Construction sector has significant deficits in terms of innovation investment and productivity growth at all levels, but notably where SMEs are involved, which represent 99,9% of the companies in the sector, producing up to 80% of its economic output.

METABUILDING is an Innovation project launched in June 2020, funded by the European Commission as part of the INNOSUP Programme of the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme.

The overall objective of the METABUILDING project is to bring innovation to the "traditional" value chain of the Construction sector and at the same time systematically expand that value chain to other industrial sectors to create an Enlarged Built Environment sector.

In the project, Construction sector SMEs are in the center of a new innovation process aimed at increasing their productivity and competitiveness through collaboration with SMEs from more innovative, emerging industrial sectors. Furthermore, METABUILDING wants to contribute to the structuring of the construction sector in order to enhance collaboration between EU countries and regions. It provides innovation support to SMEs from <u>5 industrial sectors</u>: Construction, Digital Industry, Additive Manufacturing, Nature-Based Solutions and Circularity & Recycling and <u>6 target countries</u>: Austria, France, Hungary, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

METABUILDING works to elaborate a joint roadmap of an enlarged Built Environment value chain in a bottom-up approach, fostering the integration of different innovation stakeholders and experts, especially from regional clusters, and taking into account specifically the innovation needs and barriers of SMEs. Furthermore, the METABUILDING Open Innovation digital platform is being developed facilitating the identification of partners, innovative technologies (featuring an Industrial Commons database of previously developed, EU funded technology assets for insourcing), funding instruments and new markets.

METABUILDING Impact

- Provide direct financial and non-financial innovation support for SMEs.
- Increase competitiveness of SMEs through international business collaboration.
- Support SMEs to get out of the COVID-19 crisis through innovation.
- Stimulate the innovation potential of the Construction sector through cross-sectoral and cross-border collaboration.
- Create and expand a Digital Platform facilitating collaboration and innovation in an enlarged Built Environment Sector.

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¹ Gross Domestic Product

1.1. Project partners

	Name	Short name	Org. Type	Country
1	NOBATEK/INEF4 (coordinator)	NBK	RTO	France
2	EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION, BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM	ECTP	ASSO	Belgium
3	EUROPAISCHE FODERATION BAUWERKSBEGRUNUNGSVERBANDE	EFB	ASSO	Austria
4	FUNDACION IDONIAL	IDO	RTO	Spain
5	FUNDACION PLATAFORMA TECNOLOGICA ESPAÑOLA DE LA CONSTRUCCION	PTEC	ASSO	Spain
6	PLATAFORMA TECNOLÓGICA PORTUGUESA DA CONSTRUÇÃO – ASSOCIAÇÃO	PTPC	ASSO	Portugal
7	FONDS DE DOTATION CERCLE PROMODUL/INEF4	PROM	ASSO	France
8	FEDERAZIONE DELLE COSTRUZIONI	FEDCO	ASSO	Italy
9	PANNON BUSINESS NETWORK NONPROFIT KFT.	PBN	ASSO	Hungary
10	INDRA SOLUCIONES TECNOLOGIAS DE LA INFORMACION SL	MIN	LE	Spain
11	GRUNSTATTGRAU FORSCHUNGS- UND INNOVATIONS-GMBH	GSG	SME	Austria
12	EKODENGE MUHENDISLIK MIMARLIK DANISMANLIK TICARET ANONIM SIRKETI	EKO	SME	Turkey
13	STEINBEIS INNOVATION GGMBH	SEZ	RTO	Germany
14	OCTOPUSSY AGENCE POUR LA CREATION ET LA DIFFUSION D'ACTIVITES CULTURELLES ARTISTIQUES TECHNOLOGIQUES SCIENTIFIQUES	OPY	ASSO	France
15	EUROPEAN RECYCLING INDUSTRY CONFEDERATION	EUR	ASSO	Belgium

1.2. Project facts

Project Acronym: METABUILDING

Project Title: METAclustering for cross-sectoral and cross-border innovation ecosystem

BUILDING for the European Construction, Additive Manufacturing and Nature-

Based Solutions industrial sectors' SMEs

Project Reference: Grant Agreement No. 873964

Call Identifier: H2020- INNOSUP-01-2018-2020

Project Type: Cluster facilitated projects for new industrial value chains

Project Duration: 36 months from 01.06.2020 to 31.05.2023

Budget: 5,0M € (EC Funding)

Website: www.metabuilding-project.eu

1.3. Project contact details

For any enquires regarding the METABUILDING project please contact:

E-mail: info@metabuilding-project.eu

2. Eligibility criteria for applicants

The METABUILDING SEED innovation vouchers are open to SMEs meeting the following criteria:

- The applicant must be a SME (Small and Medium-size Enterprise) according to the EU definition² and in case of doubt they are requested to do an SME self-assessment³. As a summary, the criteria which define an SME are:
 - o Staff headcount less or equal to 250
 - o Annual turnover less or equal to €50 million OR annual balance sheet total less or equal to €43 million
- The applicant must be a single company. Consortia are not allowed.
- Applicants need to be established in one of the following six METABUILDING target countries:
 - o Austria
 - o France
 - o Hungary
 - o Italy
 - o Portugal
 - o Spain

If they are located elsewhere in Europe, they can also apply if they are a direct member or a member of an institution being a member of the EURIC⁴, AM⁵, EFB⁶, ECTP⁷ platforms.

- Applicants need to be active in one of the following sectors:
 - Construction
 - o Digital Industry
 - o Additive Manufacturing
 - Nature-Based Solutions
 - o Circularity & Recycling

²https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/sme-definition_en

³https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/SME-

Wizard/smeq.do;SME_SESSION_ID=5HEBVDufACO_FWLltBn97Zg6Cq2_JougiskyFLCBW6E6gE1pm1QuI2141392090?execution=e1s1_

⁴https://www.euric-aisbl.eu/members-euric/affiliated-members

⁵https://www.rm-platform.com/am-platform/members

⁶https://platform.think-nature.eu/

⁷http://www.ectp.org/organization-database-list/

3. Application Conditions

The specific conditions for the SEED innovation vouchers are detailed below.

Funding category	SEED
Type of instrument	Innovation Voucher
Supported Activities	Services permitting the assessment of the feasibility of innovation projects
Targeted SMEs for SEED innovation vouchers	Individual SMEs belonging to one of the 5 target sectors and one of the 6 target countries or to any of the associated platforms detailed above
Condition	SMEs must include a valid offer/quote from a service provider belonging to the Innovation Stakeholder Pool ⁸ as part of their application
Form of Financial Support	Reimbursement of the service costs on presentation by the SME of a service report issued by the service provider
Granted	Based on the eligibility criteria and an evaluation procedure
Type of call and application process	2 Calls for applications (with 30 vouchers each)
Time to use innovation vouchers (max.)	No later than 2 months after reception of funding decision
Funding conditions	Maximum 5.000 € per innovation voucher, only one voucher per SME
Total number of supported SMEs	60

3.1. Scope of the SEED call

The SEED call aims at increasing the competitiveness and providing financial support to SMEs to validate technical, economical and intellectual property aspects of project ideas and innovation opportunities that aim at increasing the innovation potential of the Construction sector through cross-sectoral and/or cross border collaboration. Ideas for collaborative projects are going to be favored but are not mandatory.

3.2. SEED Innovation Vouchers

SEED Innovation Vouchers finance short interventions of technological, legal, and business experts in order to help the SMEs to validate an idea for an innovation project, to evaluate the potential of an innovation opportunity or to accelerate or deblock an existing innovation project.

The financed services should help an SME to take a final decision concerning its engagement in an innovation project or an innovation opportunity based on a professional analysis of risks and opportunities or contribute to solve specific problems in an ongoing innovation project.

The SEED Innovation Vouchers are not limited to projects and opportunities in early technology readiness levels (TRLs) but support as well ideas, opportunities and projects that are close to market introduction.

The SEED Innovation Voucher is valid to be used within a period of 2 months after receiving the confirmation of being awarded.

⁸ https://www.metabuilding.com/innovation-stakeholder-directory/

3.3. SEED Supported Services

The supported SEED Services must help to validate innovative project ideas/innovation opportunities or deblock ongoing projects that contribute to the rejuvenation of the Construction sector by bringing in or combining solutions, technologies and/or know-how coming from Digital Industry, Additive Manufacturing, Nature-Based Solutions and/or Circularity & Recycling.

The services that qualify for receiving financial support are:

- Legal assistance and patent search
- Technical analysis and assistance
- Elaboration of market studies and business models

3.4. SEED Service Providers

The SEED service provider has to be registered as Innovation Stakeholder in the METABUILDING Innovation Stakeholders Pool to be eligible to support an SME. The list can be found on https://www.metabuilding.com/innovation-stakeholder-directory/.

Innovation Stakeholders are institutions, consultants, companies, universities, etc. located in EU with expertise and high-quality knowledge to provide SMEs with the required service. METABUILDING consortium partners cannot act as service providers in the context of the METABUILDING calls. To become an Innovation Stakeholder, entities may contact the National Helpdesk⁹ of their country and will need to sign an Innovation Stakeholder charter.

The selected service provider should be an independent entity having no legal control over the applicant and not being controlled by it. Applicants for an innovation voucher are requested to confirm that they take all measures to prevent any conflict of interests.

3.5. Eligible costs and maximum funding

SEED innovation vouchers must be used to pay external service providers. METABUILDING consortium partners cannot be paid with these innovation vouchers.

Successful applications will be awarded a SEED Innovation Voucher of max. 5.000 €. Only costs generated within the service are eligible. Cost exceeding this amount will not be covered by the voucher but can be covered by the SME (with their own funds).

This amount will be paid as a lump sum upon presentation of the invoice and a post-service assessment questionnaire.

The applicants are required to provide a signed offer of the service provider (acceptance declaration) as part of the application and the presented invoice must be coherent with the offer provided by the applicant at the submission of the application.

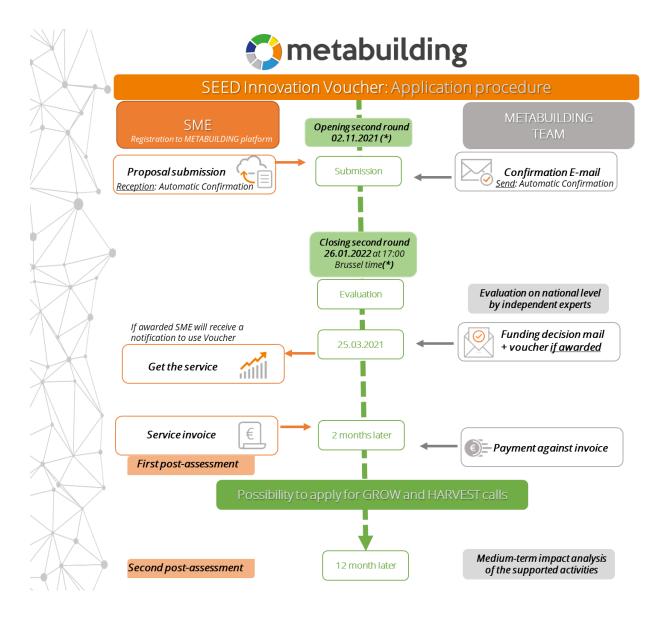
The invoice is not submitted to VAT according to the EU legislation 10.

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⁹ https://www.metabuilding.com/grow-harvest-call/#helpdesk

^{10 &}lt;u>LexUriServ.do (europa.eu)</u>

4. Overview from Application to Payment



(*) This figure represents the application procedure for the second round (from 02.11.2021 to 26.01.2021 17:00 Brussel time).

5. Submission of Application

5.1. Application procedure

Main steps of the application procedure for the SEED Innovation Voucher:

- 1. Register on www.metabuilding.com
- 2. Confirm compliance with eligibility criteria for participating in the open call and absence of conflict of interest.
- 3. Choose a SEED service provider in the Innovation Stakeholders Directory: https://www.metabuilding.com/innovation-stakeholder-directory/
- 4. Prepare and submit the application on Good Grants (automatic redirection from www.metabuilding.com) including signed offer from service provider. The application must be completed in English, applications submitted in other languages will not be taken into consideration.
- 5. Shortly after the submission the applicant will receive an automatic confirmation of receipt. This acknowledgement of receipt does not imply that the proposal has been accepted as eligible for funding.

No additions or changes within the application will be considered after the submission.

5.2. Application documents

The application has to be done online on www.metabuilding.com

The complete application consists of the following elements:

- a. SEED application form (including provisions of the Declaration of Honour See Annex 1 & 2)
- b. Ethic Issues Table (See Annex 3)
- c. Quotation of the service provider (signed by the SMEs as declaration of acceptance)

5.3. Timeline

Publication date	25.10.2021
Call opening	First round: 15.12.2020
	Second round: 02.11.2021
Call closing	First round: 30.01.2021 at 17:00 (Brussel time)
	Second round: 26.01.2022 at 17:00 (Brussel time)
Information on results	First round: 15.02.2021
	Second round: 25.03.2022

6. Application evaluation and selection

Application for SEED innovation vouchers will be evaluated on national level by independent experts (not related to the project) forming part of a national jury following the same criteria in all countries. The national juries will present their evaluation results to the METABUILDING evaluation board (including jury members from all countries), who will take the final funding decisions.

Criteria	Weight	Max. score	Description
Innovative character of the project idea	40%	5	The proposed project idea or innovation opportunity demonstrates a significant innovation potential compared to the existing technologies and/or solutions available on the market.
Impact on the construction sector	30%	5	The proposed project idea or innovation opportunity will have a significant impact on the construction sector by reducing production time and/or costs, decreasing use of raw material and/or increasing the use of recycled materials.
Impact on the construction market	30%	5	The proposed project idea or innovation opportunity will lead to a product with a significant market potential as it responds to a clearly identified market demand and has the potential to capture an important market share.
Total	100%	15	

Interpretation of the score:

Each criterion can be rated between 1 and 5. Half-point scores are not given. For each criterion the score values will indicate the following assessments:

- **0** The application fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- 1 Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- 2- Fair. The application broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
- **3- Good.** The application addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
- **4- Very good.** The application addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
- **5- Excellent.** The application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor

Applications that do not reach a threshold of 3/5 for each of the three criteria will not be eligible.

7. Funding Decision and Financial Provisions

- The applicants will receive a funding decision by the Grant Management Secretariat no later than 60 days after the call has closed.
- When requesting reimbursement, the awardees need to provide their bank account data, the invoice without VAT, and the post-assessment questionnaire.
- SMEs can submit several applications, but funding is limited to one voucher per SME.
- Maximum amount of € 5,000 in form of a reimbursement.
- SMEs have the possibility to participate in different METABUILDING open calls during the course of the METABUILDING project. However, the maximum possible financial support for any SME in all calls is limited to € 60,000.

8. Reporting requirements

In order to receive the reimbursement, the awardee has to declare that the service has been completed and submit a post-assessment questionnaire containing pre-defined KPIs which help to measure and compare the impact of the supported activities. A service report has to be preserved as record proving the proper implementation of the service and needs to be made available in case of an audit.

A second post-assessment on the same KPIs is required 12 months after the implementation of the service in order to analyze the medium-term impact of the supported activities on the awarded SMEs.

9. Questions and contacts

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section will be available on <u>www.metabuilding.com</u> listing common questions and answers concerning the SEED call.

For further information and questions regarding the open call for SEED Innovation vouchers under the METABUILDING project, the applicable eligibility criteria, the evaluation, please contact the corresponding national helpdesks:

Austria Contact Person: Susanne Formanek

E-mail: helpdesk-austria@metabuilding.com

France Contact Person: Marlène Gallet

E-mail: helpdesk-france@metabuilding.com

Hungary Contact Person: Robert Németh

E-mail: helpdesk-hungary@metabuilding.com

Italy Contact Person: Maria Luisa Colella

E-mail: helpdesk-italy@metabuilding.com

Portugal Contact Person: Filipe Ribeiro

E-mail: helpdesk-portugal@metabuilding.com

Spain Contact Person: Paula Menendez

E-mail: helpdesk-spain@metabuilding.com

When contacting a helpdesk, please include the following:

- a) Your username, telephone number and email address.
- b) Detailed description of the specific problem.
- c) If possible, screenshots of the problem.

You can as well contact the **METABUILDING Grant Secretariat** (communication only in English): grant-secretariat@metabuilding.com.

For any technical problem with the platform or concerning the submission of a proposal via the online portal, please contact the following Helpdesk: mbsupport@ekodenge.com.

10. Additional information and conditions for the SEED innovation voucher recipient

10.1. Data management

Personal data and information are provided in the application form for the immediate purpose of allowing a full and successful evaluation of applicants. This includes:

- Name of the applicant and contact details of the applicant (telephone number, postal address, country, internet site)
- Name and details of the contact person (e-mail, telephone number)
- VAT Registration Number of the company
- Financial information of the company (number of employees, annual turnover or balance)

In case that a SEED innovation voucher is awarded, the following additional information of the voucher recipient is required:

- Bank account reference (IBAN and BIC codes);
- Information about the voucher recipient's representative: Name and Surname, Position, Telephone number, Mail address, Signature

Data concerning the service provider is delivered in the application form and in the final reports with the purpose of permitting the evaluation of the action.

Any personal data will be processed by the 'data controller' of the Coordinator or the Consortium Partners serving as national help desks with the purposes of implementing, managing and monitoring the action or protecting the financial interests of the EU.

The persons whose personal data is processed have the right to access and correct their own personal data. For this purpose, they must send any queries about the processing of their personal data to the following email address grant-secretariat@metabuilding.com.

Personal data must be processed in compliance with applicable EU and national law on data protection.

10.2. Audits and Controls

The Coordinator or the Commission will — during the implementation of the action or afterwards — check the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement, including assessing reports. The Coordinator or the Commission may also request additional information. The information provided must be accurate, precise, complete and in the format requested

The Coordinator or the Commission may — during the implementation of the action or afterwards — carry out reviews and audits on the proper implementation of the action. This will be formally notified to the voucher recipient and will be considered to have started on the date of the formal notification.

Under Regulations No 883/2013 and No 2185/96 (and in accordance with their provisions and procedures), the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) may — at any moment during implementation of the action or afterwards — carry out investigations, including on-the-spot checks and inspections, to establish whether there has been fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity affecting the financial interests of the EU.

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) may — at any moment during implementation of the action or afterwards — carry out audits. The ECA has the right of access for the purpose of checks and audits.

10.3. Evaluation of the impact of the action

The Coordinator (may be assisted by external persons or bodies) or the Commission may carry out interim and final evaluations of the impact of the action measured against the objectives of the METABUILDING project. Evaluations may be started during implementation of the action and up to three years after the payment of the balance. The evaluation is considered to start on the date of the formal notification to the voucher recipient.

The voucher recipient must provide any information relevant to evaluate the impact of the action, including information in electronic format.

10.4. Further obligations

Further obligations of the voucher recipient are the following:

- Avoiding conflicts of interest
- Maintaining confidentiality
- Promoting the action and give visibility to the EU funding
- Liability for damages

ANNEX1: APPLICATION FORM

This form should be fill in online and submitted in English on www.metabuilding.com

1) Applicant data

Applicant	
Official legal name of company	
Legal form	
Main field of activity	
Membership proof (for SMEs located in another than of the 6 target countries, indicate link to EURIC ¹¹ , AM ¹² , EFB ¹³ , ECTP ¹⁴ platforms and a upload a proof as pdf)	
Website	
Name of contact person	
E-mail address of contact person	
Telephone number of contact person	
Official address of company	
VAT registration number	
Country	

2) Project idea/innovation opportunity

Related Industry sectors

The project idea/innovation opportunity has to concern the construction sector and at least one other of following industrial sectors

(please select at least two)

Construction (mandatory)
Digital Industry
Additive Manufacturing
Nature-Based Solutions and
Circularity & Recycling

Description of the project idea/innovation opportunity

Please provide a brief description of the project idea/innovation opportunity that needs evaluation. (max. 500 characters) If applicable, please describe the cross-border character. (max.500 characters)

Innovative character (max. 1000 characters)

<u>Impact on the construction sector</u> (max. 1000 characters)

<u>Impact on the construction market</u> (max. 1000 characters)

¹¹https://www.euric-aisbl.eu/members-euric/affiliated-members

¹²https://www.rm-platform.com/am-platform/members

¹³https://platform.think-nature.eu/

¹⁴http://www.ectp.org/organization-database-list/

3) Service requested to evaluate project idea/innovation opp	ortunity described above
Service Type	
(Please select one service option)	
☐ Legal assistance and patent search	
☐ Technical analysis and assistance	
☐ Elaboration of market study or a business model	
Description of the requested service	
Please provide a brief description of the service explaining its object regard to the project idea/innovation opportunity. (max. 1000	
Outcome of the service	
(Please indicate which will be the outcome of the service)	
☐ Patent search report	
☐ Technical feasibility report	
☐ Technical specification document	
☐ Development roadmap	
☐ Market study	
☐ Business model	
☐ Other: please specify	
The following service provider has been chosen to implemen	t the service:
Selected service provider	
Name	
Address	
Country	
VAT registration numbers	
☐ The selected service provider is part of the METABULDING	Innovation Stakeholder's Directory.
$\hfill\square$ I confirm that my company has no legal control over the se	ervice provider nor is controlled by it.
Description of the service provider	
(Please provide a brief description of the service provider chosen	and its capacity to implement the service)
(max. 300 characters)	

4) Expected benefits related to the service outcome

What are the benefits/results with regard to your project idea/innovation opportunity that you expect to achieve from the services?
(please check at least one)
☐ Take an informed decision if to launch/continue an innovation project/opportunity
☐ Have a clear idea on the technical feasibility of an innovation project
☐ Know if the expected result of an innovation project can be patented
☐ Know the steps to be taken for project development
☐ Have a clear idea on the existing market and its segments
☐ Know the economic potential of the innovation opportunity
☐ Know/confirm the business model for the expected results of the innovation project
□ Other expected benefits: please specify
Do you plan to submit a collaborative innovation project to the GROW/HARVEST call based on the results of the SEED service? Yes, No

ANNEX 2: DECLARATION OF HONOUR AND LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

By signing this document, my organisation understands and agrees the following conditions (please select):

METABUILDING	SEED Call	terms and	conditions
METABOTEDING	SEED Call	terris ariu	COLIGICIOLIS

- □ I agree with the METABUILDING terms and conditions specified in the guide for applicants (www.metabuilding.com)
- □ I confirm that my company is an SME according to the definition of the European Union. This means:
 - The staff headcount of my company is less or equal to 250
 - The annual turnover of my company is less or equal to €50 million OR the annual balance sheet total of my company is less or equal to €43 million
- □ I confirm that my company is active in one of the sectors specified in this proposal.
- □ I confirm that my company will submit two post-assessment evaluations, to evaluate the overall impact of the METABUILDING cascade funding on the participating SMEs:
 - Questionnaire on KPIs on completion of the service.
 - Measurement of the KPIs 12 months after the implementation of the service.

Financial declarations

- □ I confirm to be aware that the SEED Innovation Voucher is limited to a maximum of EUR 5.000. I confirm being in the financial position to cover for the service costs which might exceed the financial support and to assume the costs for the service until encashment of the innovation voucher.
- □ I confirm to have taken notice that the encashment of the innovation voucher is subject to the previous presentation of the invoice corresponding to the signed offer from the service provider which must be included in the application and the completion of the post-assessment questionnaire.
- $\ \square$ I understand that the submission of the signed offer of the selected service provider is mandatory.

Funding decision

- □ I confirmed to be aware that funding decisions are made based on the defined evaluation criteria that I have taken notice of.
- □ I confirm that my company will accept the funding decision made by the evaluators and waives its right to engage in a redress against this decision.

Data management

- ☐ I confirmed that my organisation acknowledges and agrees:
 - that grants will be submitted and evaluated electronically.
 - in the use of the electronic grant application system Good Grants.
 - in the collection of personal data by the funding body being subject to the privacy statement under according to EU general data protection regulation 2016/679 (GDPR).
 - that data will be used in the framework of the METABUILDING project.
 - that data can be transmitted to the European Commission and auditors for reporting reasons, impact measurement and in the case of an audit.
- ☐ I declare the accuracy of all statements made above.
- □ I confirm that my organization is aware that administrative or financial penalties may be imposed on the voucher recipient in case of :
 - misrepresentation or failure in supplying the information required by the grant management of the METABUILDING project as a condition of participation in the grant award procedure.
 - failure in fullfiling the obligations and conditions agreed upon.
- $\ \square$ I confirm that my organization encloses the ethics issue table.

I confirm that my organization authorizes METABUILDING to use the organization's name and logo
in communication activities linked to the METABUILDING project and, if awarded, to be listed in an
awardees list. Furthermore, if awarded, the SME agrees to provide the METABUILDING project with
a testimonial that can be published on the METABUILDING platform and eventually in websites,
social media channels, press releases, etc. This information may be completed by photos (for
example award ceremony, participation in fairs, etc.) and personal information of the awardees if
requested by METABUILDING and agreed upon by the persons concerned.