

# Exploit4InnoMat

Innovative construction for sustainable buildings

**Guidelines For Applicants** 

**Exploit4Innomat Open Call** 

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#### ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Description	
BEM	Building Energy Modelling	
BIM	Building Information Modeling	
BIM	Building Information Modelling	
CPR	Construction Product Regulation	
DPO	Data Protection Officer	
ESR	Evaluation Summary Report	
EU	European Union	
FGC	Functionally Graded Concrete	
KPI	Key Performance Indicator	
MS	Member State	
nZEB	Nearly Zero-Energy Building	
ОСМВ	Open Call Management Board	
OITB	Open Innovation Test Bed	
RTO	Research and Technology Organization	
SEP	Single Entry Point	
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise	
TRL	Technology Readiness Level	

#### **Document Revision History**

Version	Date	Description of change
V1.1	28.05.2025	Extension of the OC deadline, revised email notification date (Section 2.1) and typo corrections.



# Exploit4InnoMat Open Call Summary

When? Timeframe	<ul> <li>Open Call Application: From 25th of February 2025 until 18th June 2025</li> <li>Test Running: from 01 September 2025 until 25th of February 2026</li> </ul>		
Who? Target entities	<ul> <li>Entities or consortia in the construction sector:</li> <li>SMEs, large companies</li> <li>Academic institutes (Universities), public and private research institutes and other not-for-profit research entities.</li> </ul>		
How? Application pages	<ul> <li>F6S Platform: <u>http://www.f6s.com/exploit4innomat-open-call/apply</u></li> </ul>		
What? Supporting activities	<ul> <li>Access to a wide range of construction and product services, through an OITB platform: <ul> <li>Pilot Lines</li> <li>Characterisation</li> <li>Environmental assessment</li> <li>Modelling</li> <li>Validation Sites</li> <li>Regulatory and Standardisation</li> <li>Technical Innovation Service</li> <li>Innovation Management</li> </ul> </li> <li>Access to training</li> <li>Build a strong business network by establishing long-term relationships with key industry players</li> </ul>		
Possible Benefits Expected outcomes	<ul> <li>term relationships with key industry players</li> <li>Improved Efficiency in Production Scaling</li> <li>Minimisation of Waste</li> <li>Decreased Energy Consumption</li> <li>Enhanced Material Properties</li> <li>Energy Efficiency in Building Performance</li> <li>Strategic Market Implementation</li> </ul>		

#### Disclaimer

The Exploit4InnoMat consortium may modify this document at any time. Updates will be communicated, and applicants will be notified via the F6S portal. Changes won't affect previous decisions.



# **1.Introduction**

# 1.1. What is Exploit4InnoMat?

/Exploit4InnoMat Project/

The Exploit4InnoMat Ecosystem intends to provide a sustainable solution across Europe for the design, upscaling and validation of new material concepts for the building envelope that will facilitate the achievement of the EC target for nZEB. It aims to develop a sustainable open innovation test bed (OITB) that is set to deliver comprehensive services spanning the materials supply chain. It begins with the design and upscaling of materials, extending through installation, validation, and scenario assessment for end-of-life considerations. The OITB offers 8 Groups of services: pilot lines, characterisation, environmental assessment, modelling, validation sites, regulatory and standardisation, technical innovation service, and innovation management. Exploit4InnoMat comprises 8 Pilot Lines, strategically located in 8 EU countries (Norway, Sweden, Germany, Spain, Greece, Italy, Lithuania and Turkey). These lines are equipped to process various types of advanced and/or nano-enabled multifunctional materials, including the sorting and processing of construction and demolition waste for use as secondary raw materials.

The primary goal of the project is to foster the development of sustainable materials and products. These innovations aim to reduce operational energy demand, achieved through improved insulation properties, reduced thermal bridges, and energy harvesting or storage. This is made possible by incorporating construction and demolition waste and other secondary raw materials, while optimising their production processes. The overarching objective is to create materials and products that contribute to a healthier and more comfortable indoor environment, addressing aspects such as thermal comfort and air quality.

The Exploit4InnoMat OITB will provide its services through a Single-Entry Point (SEP). The SEP will undertake the whole administrative effort to sign contracts on behalf of the OITB members with its clients. In this way, a one-stop shop is formed, facilitating the access of the clients to the pilot lines and the other services of OITB. The Exploit4InnoMat OITB targets in strengthening the cooperation between various stakeholders (e.g. technology and service providers, SME, large enterprises) and developing new business models for the construction sector, based on Open Innovation Philosophy.

## **1.2. What do we offer?** /Exploit4InnoMat Open Call/

The Exploit4InnoMat Open Call offers a unique opportunity for 6 to 8 selected projects to access free support for a 6-month period. This support includes a range of tailored services aimed at helping to develop and test innovative technologies for the construction sector.

The open call winners will be provided with tools and expertise to develop their technologies, refining their materials, or testing them in real-world conditions.



Additionally, participants will benefit from targeted training on important construction topics, ensuring they have the knowledge to implement their solutions effectively.

#### **1.2.1. Services Provided**

Exploit4InnoMat open call offers a comprehensive range of construction and product services, ensuring that end-users have access to a broad spectrum of methods and expertise tailored to their needs.

The services available through Exploit4InnoMat include Pilot Lines, Characterisation services, Environmental Assessment, Modelling, Validation Sites, Regulatory and Standardisation Support, Technical Innovation and Innovation Management.

These services are grouped into eight distinct categories, each covering critical aspects required for the development of innovative solutions in the construction sector. Upon request by the SEP, the partners of the Exploit4InnoMat OITB will provide these services to support project implementation. A detailed description of each service is available on the Exploit4InnoMat website, with a summary provided in the table below.

Service Category	Services Described	List of Services
Pilot Lines	A range of upscaling and testing services, provided by eight pilot line facilities, where it is possible to produce materials on a scale closer to the industrial one, succeeding to cover the gap between laboratory development and full-scale production.	<ul> <li>PL 1: Building integrated PVT façade elements</li> <li>PL2: 3D printed semi-inorganic façade elements with functional properties</li> <li>PL 3: Nano enabled insulating mortars, plasters, renders and premix products</li> <li>PL4: Materials and components for smart glazing and windows manufacturing</li> <li>PL 5: Functional nano-enabled coatings</li> <li>PL 6: Advanced Ceramics for thermal and acoustic improved bricks</li> <li>PL7: Functionally Graded Concrete (FGC) for load bearing structures and façade elements. 3D-printed Bio-concrete façade elements</li> <li>PL 8: Cement-free materials and components</li> </ul>



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Service Category	Services Described	List of Services
Characterisation services	A wide variety of analysis and test methods addressed towards materials, components and products. Thanks to the network of partners with different expertise and specializations, the characterization activities cover different fields of application.	<ul> <li>Testing and characterisation of materials, components and products developed in the eight pilot lines</li> <li>Analytical, structural and morphological properties</li> <li>Metrological service</li> <li>Analysis of waste streams and contaminants in materials mixtures</li> <li>Advanced Product Quality Control (In-Line and At-Line)</li> </ul>
Service Category	Services Described	List of Services
Environmental assessment	In the frame of environmental assessment, Exploit4Light offers services to assess eco-innovations and sustainability, as well as consulting services for enhancing the energy efficiency of buildings.	<ul> <li>Eco-innovation and sustainability services         <ul> <li>Environmental Life Cycle Assessment</li> <li>Life Cycle Cost Assessment</li> </ul> </li> <li>Eco-innovation and sustainability services         <ul> <li>Societal Life Cycle Assessment</li> </ul> </li> <li>Consulting services for enhancing the energy efficiency of buildings Circularity and recyclability assessment</li> </ul>
Service Category	Services Described	List of Services
Modelling	Exploit4Light offers the possibility of several advanced modelling techniques. The service comprised Building Information Modelling (BIM) and Building Energy Modelling (BEM), as well as advanced process modelling and simulation services tailored for the building sector. An additional service focuses on modelling of Materials, Components, and Prototypes, Multiscale Modelling, Multiphysics Simulation, Statistical Models and Data-Driven approaches.	<ul> <li>Building Information Modelling (BIM), Building Energy Modelling (BEM)</li> <li>Advanced process modelling and simulation services tailored for the building sector</li> <li>Modelling of Materials, Components, and Prototypes, Multiscale Modelling, Multiphysics Simulation, Statistical Models and Data-Driven approaches</li> </ul>



Service Category	Services Described	List of Services
Validation Sites	Two real scale test environments in cold and hot climate are offered. One is located near Trondheim, Norway with cold and humid climate and the other is located in Lavrion, Greece with hot Mediterranean climate.	<ul> <li>Outdoor test facility ZEB Test Cell as a full- scale test possibility against real outdoor weather</li> <li>Lavrion validation site</li> </ul>

Service Category	Services Described	List of Services
Regulatory and Standardisation Services	For materials, components and products which are regulated by the Construction Product Regulation (CPR) or national law there is a need to perform an assessment on possible ways to reach an allowance for the European or national market (e.g. CE-marking).	<ul> <li>Accredited and recognized services</li> <li>Testing Laboratory according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025</li> <li>Certification Body for products according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065 and CPR</li> <li>European recognition as notified body according to Construction Products Regulation (CPR) (Nando list number: 0672)</li> <li>National recognition as a testing, monitoring and certification body (PÜZ body) according to state building regulations (BWU03 according to LBO – Ü-mark)</li> <li>Certification body (ID036) for the KEYMARK certification of insulation materials for buildings</li> <li>Accredited and recognised services</li> <li>Testing laboratory according to SN EN ISO/IEC 17025 (SAS accreditation number STS 0209)</li> <li>European recognition as notified body according to Construction Products Regulation (CPR) (Nando list number: 2188)</li> <li>Standardisation activities</li> </ul>



Service Category	Services Described	List of Services
Technical Innovation Service	Wide range of services, from material design and development and upscaling, and recycling operations at the end of life. The chemical laboratory and pilot facility provide services on catalytic materials development, physicochemical characterizations testing, customization and mass production	Advanced materials provision
Comico Cotonomi	Comises Described	List of Comisso
Service Category	Services Described	List of Services
Innovation Management	Starting with technology scouting and long-term road mapping of possibly disruptiv technologies, exploitation an commercialization services which include marketability assessment and business modelling as well as IPR services. A special service is dedicated to training management to develop training services for new products and services. Finall support for funding services provided which are dedicated to facilitating the use of Exploit4Light services, help f actors in the innovation syste	d needs, developing long-term roadmaps and strategies to help scale disruptive solutions, and providing insights into trends and emerging technologies. Additionally, focus on cross-sectoral technology transfer to commercialize products across various industries, engage stakeholders in innovative projects, and facilitates access to funding for collaborative R&D programs is d Exploitation/Commercialisation Services • Exploitation/Commercialisation for Services

• Marketability assessment, Business modelling

**IPR Services** 

- IPR Services
- Provision of innovation and IP consultancy and advisory services, related to innovation management, IP strategy, exploitation of IP and IP protection to Exploit4Light clients

Training management

• Training management



to a get the latest public

support to Exploit4Light

Union's research and

innovation program.

opportunities and an extensive

members and users to secure

funding from the European

funding and growth

	<ul> <li>Funding services</li> <li>Consulting on Financial Initiatives to use E4I OITB services and materials</li> <li>Service that will help founders, start-ups, SMEs and other actors in the innovation system to get the latest public funding &amp; growth opportunities</li> <li>Comprehensive support to the OITB members and organizations seeking to secure funding from the European Union's research and innovation program.</li> </ul>
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Table 1 Exploit4InnoMat Service

#### **1.2.2. Training Provided**

Exploit4InnoMat will provide a series of training courses to help participants adopt the latest methodologies, technologies, and regulatory standards in materials science and building information modeling (BIM). The training sessions will be offered as e-classes to groups, ensuring accessibility and effective knowledge sharing. Participation in these sessions will be optional and free of charge. The training courses include:

Course code E4I	Thematic/Course name	Targeted audience
1	Process and Procedure	
1.1	Introduction to materials science- The E4I BIM process -Introduction	External
1.2	The E4I BIM process for Architects and Engineers 1	Architects, Engineers and Financial planners
1.3	The E4I BIM process for Architects and Engineers 2	Architects, Engineers and Financial planners
1.4	The E4I BIM process for Architects and Engineers 3	Architects, Engineers and Financial planners
1.5	The E4I BIM process for Architects and Engineers 4	Architects, Engineers and Financial planners
1.6	The E4I BIM process for Architects and Engineers 5	Architects, Engineers and Financial planners
1.7	The E4I BIM process for Architects and Engineers 6	Architects, Engineers and Financial planners
1.8	The E4I BIM process for Contractors	Contractors and material industry experts
1.9	Building with E4I BIM process-From A to Z	Architects, Engineers and Financial planners
1.10	Regulatory issues (standards, safety and quality)	External



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1.11	Process and methodology of brick construction	External
2	Tools specific training	
2.1	Introduction to modeling of materials and processes and building information modeling (BIM).	External
2.2	E4I BIM advanced topics 1	External
2.3	E4I BIM advanced topics 2	External
2.6	Introduction to the E4I methodology and tools- Exploit4InnoMat Webinar 1	External
2.7	Introduction to the E4I methodology and tools- Exploit4InnoMat Webinar 2	External
2.8	Test Bed hands on Lab	IExternal
2.9	Logistics and Procurements in E4I	External
2.10	Building Green	External
3.	Services	
3.2	IP and Legal-Regulatory -Introduction	External
3.5	Doing business with E4I	External

Table 2 Exploit4InnoMat Training Courses

# 2. General Overview of the Open Call

# 2.1. When?

The Exploit4InnoMat Open Call will be launched on the F6S platform on **25th of February 2025 until 18th June 2025.** During this period, applicants can submit questions related to the application process via the F6S platform. The open call process consists of the following stages, presented below:

• First Stage: Applicants must apply and answer all required questions on the Exploit4InnoMat F6S page between **25th of February 2024 and 18th June 2025** (17:00 CEST).

Link: https://www.f6s.com/exploit4innomat-open-call/apply

- Second Stage: Evaluation and interviews will take place in June 2025
- Third Stage: Signing of Sub-Grant Agreements with selected applicants from July to August 2025
- Fourth Stage: Implementation and Monitoring from September 2025 to February 2026

At the end of the evaluation process, by 18.07.2025, applicants will be notified via email of the outcome of their submission. Successful proposals will be ranked, with shortlisted candidates



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invited to participate in the project activities. Proposals may also be placed on a reserve list or rejected. Please note that dates are subject to change and applicants will be notified accordingly.

## 2.2. Language of the Open Call

**English** is the official language for the Exploit4InnoMat Open Call. Submissions done in any other languages will not be eligible for evaluation. All official communications between the applicant and Exploit4InnoMat will be done in English. It will be the only official language during the whole execution of the Exploit4InnoMat project.

### 2.3. Data protection

To process and evaluate applications, Exploit4InnoMat consortium will need to collect personal and industrial data. F6S Network Ireland Limited will act as Data Controller for data submitted through the F6S platform for these purposes. Please see our privacy policy <u>here</u>.

A Data Protection Officer (DPO) has been appointed by F6S generally, to ensure compliance with data protection regulations, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and that personal data is collected, processed, and stored in a secure manner.

The F6S platform's system design and operational procedures ensure that data is managed in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). Each applicant will accept the F6S terms to ensure compliance. Please refer <u>here</u> to review the F6S platform's privacy policy and data security policy.

Apart from the F6S platform, data will also be stored in the F6S Google Drive, and in the project repository on Google Drive managed by the project coordinator UNIS.

Please note that the Exploit4innoMat consortium must retain generated data until five years after the balance of the Exploit4innoMat project is paid or longer if there are ongoing procedures (such as audits, investigations or litigation). In this case, the data must be kept until the end.

# 3. Eligibility

# 3.1. Who are we looking for?

1. Entities related to the Construction Sector (materials, products, and components):

• multifunctional advanced materials for the building envelope.

2.Entities willing to test Exploit4InnoMat OITB services.



#### **3.1.1. Eligible Entities**

The following types of entities are invited to submit their application to the open call:

- Small and Medium Enterprise (SMEs)<sup>1</sup>, Large companies (as defined in EU law EU recommendation 2003/3618)
- Academic institutes (Universities), public and private research institutes, and other notfor-profit entities.

Applicants can submit their applications as either an individual organisation/ entity or as a consortium comprising a maximum of two (2) entities.

#### **Consortium Requirements:**

- The consortium must include at least one SME.
- Large companies and academic/research institutions **cannot** form a consortium together without an SME partner.
- The partners must demonstrate a **clear collaborative approach**, outlining complementary expertise and shared responsibilities in the application.
- The consortium must designate a **lead applicant**, responsible for coordinating activities and communication with the Exploit4InnoMat team.
- Each entity can only participate in **one application**, whether as an individual applicant or as part of a consortium.

#### **3.1.2. Eligible Countries**

Applying entities must be based in:

- The Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU), including their outermost regions.
- Horizon Europe associated countries (those that have signed an agreement with the EU as identified in Article 7 of the Horizon 2020 Regulation): according to the updated list published by the EC.<sup>2</sup>

#### **3.1.3. Eligible Activities**

Applicants are required **to select between 2 and 5 services** offered by the Exploit4InnoMat Open Innovation Test Bed. These services should align with the applicant's project objectives and contribute to the development, testing, or validation of innovative construction materials and products. The selected services may include Pilot Lines, Characterisation, Environmental Assessment, Modelling, Validation Sites, Regulatory and Standardisation Support, Technology Management or Innovation Management, among others.

<sup>2</sup>https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-countryparticipation\_horizon-euratom\_en.pdf



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>EC recommendation for Small and Medium- sized Enterprises (SMEs) 2003/361/ <u>https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/sme-fundamentals/sme-definition\_en</u>

The eligible activities must demonstrate a clear problem-solving approach. Applicants are expected to address a specific challenge within their industry, such as improving material performance, scaling up production processes, or ensuring compliance with environmental regulations. The proposed activities should clearly show how the selected OITB services will help overcome these challenges, ensuring the innovation is ready for market implementation.

In addition, the activities must contribute to the overall objectives of the Exploit4InnoMat project by validating the OITB services and providing feedback on their efficiency. Applicants should outline how their project activities will lead to impactful outcomes, such as increased efficiency, reduced energy consumption, or improved sustainability within the construction sector.

# 4. How?

#### **/Submission Process/**

- Applicants are required to complete the Application Form available on the F6S platform (f6s.com), following the specified Open Call guidelines: http://www.f6s.com/exploit4innomat-open-call/apply
- Applicants are required to create an account on the F6S Platform before proceeding with the online application process.
- The application and all mandatory items must be submitted via the F6S platform before the Open Call deadline (18.06.2025).
- Detailed information about the Open Call application process and all relevant documentation can be found at the Exploit4InnoMat Open Call page on the Exploit4InnoMat website: <u>https://exploit4innomat.eu/</u>
- Only submissions before the deadline will be accepted. After the official Exploit4InnoMat Open Call closure (June 18th, 2025, 17:00 CEST), no additions or changes to the submitted application form will be considered.
- Requests or inquiries about the submission process or the Open Call itself, received after the closure of the Open Call will neither be considered nor answered.
- It is strongly recommended not to wait until the last minute to fill in and submit your application form. The time of submission of the application, as recorded by the F6S platform, will be definitive.
- Be specific and concise when answering the questions they have character limitations.



- Applicants that do not accept the Exploit4InnoMat Open Call terms and conditions listed in the online application form will be declared non-eligible.
- The Exploit4InnoMat application form is self-contained. Additional materials and/or hyperlinks to additional information, which have not been specifically requested in the online application form, will not be considered by the evaluators.
- If the applicant discovers an error in their application form, and if the Open Call deadline has not passed, the applicant may request support to open again, and/ or re-submit the proposal at: <a href="mailto:support@f6s.com">support@f6s.com</a>
- For any other inquiries related to the Open Call, the applicants can send email at: info@exploit4innomat.eu

# **5. Evaluation and Selection**

The evaluation process consists of the following steps:

- 1. Eligibility verification (internal check by the Exploit4InnoMat consortium).
- 2. Evaluation by internal experts.
- 3. Consensus on final scores (interviews).
- 4. Final ranking and selection of applicants.

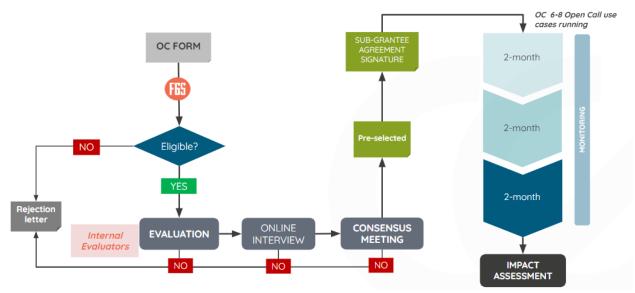


Figure 1 Exploit4InnoMat evaluation process

# **5.1. Eligibility Check**

An application will be considered eligible if it meets the following criteria:

• Submitted before the deadline and has followed the submission procedure.

- Submitted by legal entities such as SMEs, academic institutions, or research and technology organisations (RTOs), not individuals (Section 3.1.1).
- The applicant is based in an eligible country (Section 3.1.2).
- Have a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 4 or higher.
- All required fields in the application form are completed.

# **5.2. Evaluation Committee**

The evaluation committee will be composed of partners from the Exploit4InnoMat consortium, ensuring that experts with a deep understanding of the project's services are involved in assessing the applications. This ensures a fair evaluation process and that selected projects align with the platform's objectives.

## **5.3. Proposals Evaluation**

Applications will be evaluated internally by the Evaluation Committee, based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Description	Max Points
	Challenges to be overcome	
	Description of the proposed solution.	5
Excellence (45%)	Description of current state-of the art.	
	Alignment with the services provided by Exploit4InnoMat OITB	
	TRL level	
	Risk management.	
Implementation (10%)	Key resources.	5
	Support Expected.	
Impact (45%)	Market opportunity.	5
Impact (45%)	Go-to-market strategy.	



Key exploitable results.	
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#### Table 3 E4I Proposals Evaluation Criteria

The scoring will take into account the average score of the members of the Evaluation Committee. **Proposals with the highest scores will be selected for the open call activities, as test cases.** 

The Evaluation Committee evaluates each application in a transparent and fair way, respecting the confidentiality of any information identified as confidential at the time it is provided. Evaluations will be performed applying the highest ethical and moral standards. At the end of each evaluation period, the Evaluation Committee will provide a consensus report regarding the proposal evaluation.

The applicant's contact person (as provided in the form) might be contacted during the evaluation process to provide further clarification on all aspects of the application. Upon considering the problem and the proposed services, the Evaluation Committee may suggest different services or make observations on the proposal.

If the proposal is awarded, the details of the services will be discussed during the contracting period with staff from the Exploit4InnoMat responsible for the service(s) and an agreement will be signed.

## **5.4. Consensus and Interviews**

Exploit4InnoMat Open Call Management Board (OCMB) deserves the right to organise interviews with selected applicants to clarify doubts regarding submitted proposals. These interviews provide an opportunity for applicants to present and elaborate on specific aspects of their proposals, fostering a more interactive and collaborative evaluation process.

At the end of the evaluation period the scores provided by the evaluators will be reviewed. Applications with significant divergence (more than 30%) in the final scores provided by the evaluators will be identified. Those applications will proceed to an online interview with the internal evaluators.

As a result, the evaluators will adjust their scores and justifications and will agree on the final total score of the application. The scores as revised based on the consensus interviews will be the ones used for the final ranking of the applicants.

If during the interviews the applicants cannot adequately justify and commit to what has been presented in the proposal, these will be disqualified. The applicants will receive a report with justification of the result.



# **5.5. Proposals Prioritisation**

In case multiple applications achieve the exact same score, prioritisation criteria will be followed to further evaluate and rank the proposals:

- Proposals with higher Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) will be prioritised.
- Proposals with higher relevance to the construction sector will be prioritised.
- Diversity of services offered for the awarded proposal will also be taken into consideration.

# **5.6. Redress Process**

Within 3 working days after receiving the results from the evaluation process and their individual Evaluation Summary Reports (ESR) considering the application as not applicable (non-eligible or below the selection threshold), the applicant may submit a request for redress if s/he believes the results of the eligibility checks have not been correctly applied, or if s/he feels that there has been a shortcoming in the way his/her proposal has been evaluated that may have affected the final decision on whether to be selected.

Requests must be:

- Related to the evaluation process or eligibility checks.
- Clearly describe the complaint.
- Received within the time limit (3 working days) from the reception of a rejection letter or an Evaluation Summary Report.
- Sent by the applicant's legal representative that has also submitted the application.

The Exploit4InnoMat Open Call Management Board will examine the received appeals, ensuring a coherent interpretation of such requests, and the equal treatment of all applicants. If there is clear evidence of a shortcoming that could have affected the eventual final decision, it is possible that all or part of the proposal will be re-evaluated.

Please note:

- This procedure is concerned only with the evaluation and/or eligibility checking process and will not call into question the expertise of the evaluators.
- A re-evaluation will only be carried out if there is evidence of a shortcoming that affects the final decision on whether to fund the proposal or not. This means, for example, that a problem relating to one evaluation criterion will not lead to a re-evaluation if the application has failed anyway on other criteria.
- The evaluation score following any re-evaluation will be regarded as definitive. It may be lower than the original score.
- Only one request for redress per application will be considered.
- All requests for redress will be treated in confidence and must be sent to the Exploit4InnoMat OC official email address only: <u>info@exploit4innomat.eu</u>
- In case a proposal under the redress procedure is re-evaluated and the new evaluation



score is higher, it will be compared with the lowest ranking of the funded proposals.

• The comparison will use the ranking rules as expressed in Section 5.3

# 5.7. Communication of Results

The applicants will be informed about the decision made by the Evaluation Committee by July 2025 via email. This includes both the applicants who have passed and the ones who have failed to pass.

- After the completion of the evaluation phase, the results will be shared with the applicants, along with their individual Evaluation Summary Reports.
- The emails to be used for communicating the results will be the ones provided by the applicants in the application form on the F6S Platform.

# 6. Monitoring Process

After the selection process, successful applicants will enter a six-month monitoring period designed to ensure the effective implementation and validation of their proposed solutions within the Exploit4InnoMat OITB platform. The monitoring process will be rigorous, involving periodic evaluation and feedback to maximise the success of each project. Below is an in-depth look at the structure and expectations of this monitoring process.

# 6.1. Monitoring Phase: Evaluation and Timeline

The monitoring phase will span 6 months, consisting of multiple stages designed to assess and guide the progress of selected applicants. Each stage will be followed by an evaluation based on predefined by the applicants and selected service providers Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

Timeline Overview:

- Stage 1: Initial Setup (2 months)
  - Objectives, timelines, and services needed from the OITB platform are outlined.
  - Baseline Technology Readiness Level is established.
  - Selection/access to training.
  - Feedback from participants on the OITB platform: comprehensive feedback on the main operational procedures of the OITB.
- Stage 2: Mid-Term Review (2 months)
  - Progress is evaluated against the initial baseline.
  - Review of technical development, adherence to timelines, and quality of deliverables.
  - Feedback from participants on the OITB tools, procedures and services: feedback



on the main administrative, operational procedures of the OITB and access to selected services.

- Progress report submitted by the applicant, outlining the progress made, challenges encountered and any adjustments to the initial objectives and timeline.
- Stage 3: Final Evaluation (2 months)
  - Final outcomes are assessed, focusing on TRL advancement, deliverables quality, and market implementation potential.
  - Feedback from participants on the OITB ecosystem is collected: feedback on OITB Services: Comprehensive feedback on the services provided, including the usefulness of the infrastructure, the quality of the support received, and any suggestions for improvement.
  - Final project report submitted by the applicant summarising the entire project, including outcomes, lessons learned, and recommendations for future work. Final update on the achieved KPIs, compared to the predefined ones, including both technical and business-related metrics.

# 7. Sub-Grant Agreement Preparation and Signing

# 7.1. Applicants' Commitment

Once the evaluation and selection process is complete, the selected applicants will proceed to the agreement preparation and signing stage. The Exploit4InnoMat agreement is a formal document that outlines the responsibilities and declarations required from participating entities in the Exploit4InnoMat Open Call activities. By signing it, the selected applicants confirm their understanding and acceptance of all project conditions and rules. They also acknowledge that non-compliance with the terms could result in denial of participation in project activities. This process ensures a clear and mutual understanding of the obligations and expectations, facilitating a smooth and effective collaboration.

Each participating entity should provide at contract preparation time a valid VAT<sup>3</sup>. Failure to provide a valid VAT number will automatically result in exclusion from the contract preparation.

The agreement must be signed by authorised representatives of both the selected applicant(s) and the consortium (the project coordinator). For the selected applicant, this may include the project coordinator, budget holder, or other designated legal representatives, whose authority must be documented. This process ensures that all parties are fully committed to the project's terms and conditions, facilitating a smooth and effective collaboration.

The following documents will be required (when applicable):

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> <u>http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\_customs/vies/</u>



- Legal existence: Organisation Register, Official Gazette or another official document per country showing the name of the organisation, the legal address and registration number and a copy of a document proving VAT registration (in case the VAT number does not show on the registration extract or its equivalent).
- **Declaration of Honour:** Document that ensures that the sub-grantee complies with the rules and is not in a situation that would exclude it from receiving EU funding.
- **Consortium Declaration of Honour** (if applicable): One document for the consortium, signed by the legal representative of each entity of the consortium.

This or additional documentation requests will be communicated promptly to the selected applicant.

## 7.2. Review and Approval

Once all the requested documentation has been submitted, the project coordinator will review the documents to ensure they comply with the project's terms and conditions. If the documentation meets all requirements, the project coordinator will then proceed with signing the Sub-grant Agreement with the selected applicant.

# 7.3. Communication to selected applicants

Upon successful completion of the agreement signing, the project coordinator will communicate with the selected applicant to confirm the start of the funded activities via e-mail. Any claim by the applicant that the email has not been received will be rejected. The project coordinator shall not be responsible for delay/failure of email transmission.

# 8. Responsibilities of selected applicants

# 8.1. Conflict of interest

Selected applicants must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the sub-project is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interest').

They must formally notify the Exploit4InnoMat coordinator without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interest and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation. The Exploit4InnoMat coordinator will verify if the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specific deadline.

If a sub-granted project consortium member breaches any of its obligations, the sub-grant agreement may be automatically terminated.



## 8.2. Checks and reviews

The EC may, at any time during the implementation of the sub-project and up to five years after the end of the sub-project, arrange for a check and review to be carried out, by external auditors, or by the EC services themselves, including the European Anti-Fraud office (OLAF). The procedure shall be deemed to be initiated on the date of receipt of the relevant letter sent by the EC.

There will be no financial checks, reviews, or audits to check costs, since beneficiaries have no obligation to document the costs incurred for the action. Checks, reviews, and audits will focus on the technical implementation of the action.

## 8.3. Promoting action and giving visibility to the EU support

The beneficiary must promote the sub-project, the Exploit4InnoMat project and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner and to highlight the support of the EC.

# 8.4. Confidentiality and Data Protection

During the implementation of Exploit4InnoMat Open Call activities and for five years after the end of the programme activities, the parties must keep confidential any data, documents, or other material (in any form) that is identified as confidential at sub-contract signature ('confidential information').

If a selected applicant requests, the Commission and the Exploit4InnoMat consortium may agree to keep such information confidential for an additional period beyond the initial five years. This will be explicitly stated in the Sub-Grant agreement.

If the information has been identified as confidential during the Exploit4InnoMat programme or only orally, it will be considered to be confidential only if this is accepted by the Exploit4InnoMat coordinator and confirmed in writing within 15 days of the oral disclosure. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may use confidential information only to implement the Sub-Grant Agreement.

The selected applicants may disclose confidential information to the Exploit4InnoMat consortium and to the selected reviewers, who will be bounded by a specific Non-Disclosure Agreement.

# 9. Contact Information

All the information on the Exploit4InnoMat project and Open Call is available on:

- The project website, where all official documents are published: <u>https://exploit4innomat.eu/</u>
- The online Q&A and discussion forum on the F6S Platform: www.f6s.com/exploit4innomat
- Full application form (F6S): <u>http://www.f6s.com/exploit4innomat-open-call/apply</u>



• Information and doubts inquiries: info@exploit4innomat.eu

# 10. Annex

Annex I Open Call Application form Annex II Sub-Grant Agreement Annex III Declaration of Honour Annex IV Consortium Declaration of Honour

