



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
Ministry of
Environmental
Protection



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



CLIMATE SMART BIO-WASTE CHALLENGE

March 2020

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We believe in creativity and innovative minds. We believe in power and willingness of local communities to change their future. Join us to find together solutions for innovative bio-waste management!

About the Innovation Challenge

Is climate change combination of natural phenomena and man made influence? The answer is: Yes. Is climate change already changing the environment, the economy and our ways of living? The answer is again: Yes. Can we do something about it? Actually, we can! Even if you think that you are not the one who can be blamed for the current situation or that it doesn't affect your life, please look around you, observe the occurrence and intensity of the extreme weather events, the losses and damages caused to crops, houses, property and lives and think again.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is supporting the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MoEP) to implement the "Climate Smart Urban Development Challenge" (CSUD) project, jointly financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), MoEP, and UNDP. The objective of the project is to promote innovative climate-smart solutions and business models.

Based on the results of the CSUD project an Innovation Challenge call will be launched within a project "Climate Smart Bio-Waste Management Challenge", financed by Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

The "Climate Smart Bio-Waste Management Challenge" project will focus on reduction of the quantity of biowaste disposed on landfills that leads to the reduction of greenhouse gases emission and consequently reduction of environmental pollution (through the reduced contamination of soil, air and waters). In addition, this result is expected to contribute to the extension of the landfills lifetime. The project will initiate a Challenge based call for proposals of the business solutions and innovative projects that can contribute to creative ways of reduction, reuse and recycling of bio-waste in the Republic of Serbia, while at the same time preventing landfilling and reducing greenhouse gasses emissions.

Project has two sub-challenges:

1. Food and kitchen waste (from households, restaurants, caterers, retail premises and comparable waste from food processing plants - municipal, commercial and industrial waste)
2. Green waste from parks and gardens (municipal waste).

Besides this, the Project will assist the Government of the Republic of Serbia to divert a bio-waste fraction of communal waste from landfilling and boost local economies and businesses that are based on sustainable and circular solutions. This can represent significant potential for the creation of new circular economy business markets. The solutions sourced through the Challenge call are expected to generate multi-benefits in terms of environment, social and local economic development. Besides investments into creative solutions for reduction, collection, and treatment of bio-waste, which is expected to be achieved through the Challenge call, this Project will support further implementation of policies on improved bio-waste management.

The United Nations Development Programme, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Swedish International Development Agency are launching

Challenge for proposing a community driven, innovative and cost-effective idea for preventing, reducing and reusing food and green waste while simultaneously reducing greenhouse gases (GHG) and providing social, economic and environmental benefits for the community and its citizens!

Why we started this challenge?

- Climate change is already changing the environment, the economy and impacting our way of living;
- There is a notable increase in the occurrence of extreme weather conditions, losses and damages caused to crops, houses, property and lives;
- Serbia needs to step up, meet its international climate-related obligations, and, more importantly, improve our environment, for the sake of present and future generations
- In Serbia, each year 240,000 tons of food end up on landfill;
- The efficiency of many public services in Serbia is typically low, because the systems are old, poorly maintained, outdated and often resulting in significant economic losses.

Why participate in the Innovation Challenge?

- **To help solve a pressing social, economic and environmental issue** in your local community;
- **To access co-funding** for further project development and actual implementation;
- **To receive professional expert feedback** - for each of the submitted and eligible ideas and proposed solutions;
- **To gain new knowledge and skills** for the longer-term benefit of your idea and your organisation;
- **To receive free expert coaching and mentoring** - for concepts selected for further development;
- **To network and find partners** for your ideas who share a common vision;
- **To make your local community more attractive to investors.**

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and UNDP has set **Project Accelerator** to support and provide technical assistance for those planning to respond to the challenge programme and to project beneficiaries.

What is considered innovation?

- New technologies or new application of existing technological solutions (First-of-its kind in Serbia);
- New/improved business models or processes;
- Involving citizens in decision making processes, planning and information management (e.g. ease access to information on community energy management);
- Finding sustainable solutions that lead to long-lasting change;
- Involvement of different sector stakeholders in defining/proposing solutions (businesses, CSOs, science, municipalities...);
- Solving social issues (gender equality, marginalized groups, unemployment etc).

Process

Interested applicants shall submit the application form (Annex I) with project proposal describing the innovative idea for evidence-based approaches, providing information on objectives, key activities, expected outputs and outcomes, and budget.

Judging

All eligible entries received during the application phase will be screened by the judges (review committee) for completeness and adherence to the Challenge Objective.

Who can apply?

- Eligible applicants are:
 - Local self - government (cities and municipalities)
 - Public utility company
 - Commercial organization/businesses (Ltd, entrepreneurs)
 - Civil society organizations
 - Research institutions.

All applicants have to be registered in Serbia, according to national legislation.

- Applicants can apply independently or in Consortia. If applying in Consortia, the Lead Applicant has to be identified, to represent the Consortia and serve as the main point of contact throughout the application process. The lead applicant will also be the main recipient of the funds vis-à-vis project resources.
- Each applicant can submit a maximum of 2 different project proposals.
- Applying in Consortia comprised of at least two applicants, one of which is local self-government either as the lead applicant or sole beneficiary, will be considered as an asset.

Timeline of the Innovation Challenge Call for Bio-waste management

10.03.2020 – 22.04.2020.	Call for project proposals
23.04.2020. – 01.06.2020.	Evaluation and selection of projects for the acceleration phase
01.06.2020. – 18.09.2020.	Acceleration phase (development of proposals to mature projects)
21.09.2020. – 30.09.2020.	Selection of projects for implementation phase
01.10.2020. – 31.09.2021.	Implementation phase
01.10.2021 – 01.12. 2021	Monitoring and evaluation

PHASE 1: Call for project proposals and submitting applications

March 10 – April 22, 2020

Applicants are requested to fulfil the application online and submit them by the deadline. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to update and correct information provided through the application portal on the CSUD webpage.

Reviewers will review the application form to ensure they are completed correctly and fulfil the eligibility criteria, before submitting them to an independent evaluation panel of judges. Eligible applicants are local self-government; public utility company; commercial organization/businesses (Ltd, entrepreneurs); civil society organizations; research institutions registered in Serbia, according to national legislation.

What are the main Categories of the Projects?

Based on financial plan and necessary funds for projects implementation, proposals will be divided into 3 categories:

1. Small projects (up to 100.000 USD) – financial resources for implementation of such projects can also be provided through alternative sources of funding (for example crowdfunding).
2. Medium projects (up to 1 mil USD),
3. Large projects (investment values exceed 1 mil USD).

Important Note on co-financing: All projects that are expected to be financed through individual grants and co-financing, either through bank loans or other sources of financing (bilateral, multilateral, private etc.), will have to provide a Contract with the bank and/or other documents confirming the co-financing commitments, until end of the Acceleration (second) phase. Also, it is important to note that even in the application phase, project applicants will need to provide, at least, indication of financing sources and co-financing (if available the applicants can provide letters of intent, MoUs, Bank guarantees etc.).

How the selection of ideas will be done?

From April 23 until June 01, 2020

The project will provide a team of qualified Judges (covering all aspects of the proposed ideas – technical and managerial) to review and evaluate the proposed projects. Based on the evaluation

criteria, the Panel of Judges will select best projects for their further development. Up to 15 best project proposals will be selected for the second phase (acceleration).

PHASE 2: ACCELERATION

What happens after projects are selected?

From June 1, until 18 September 2020

The best project proposals will be developed further into more specific concepts and projects during the acceleration phase. Applicants will need to demonstrate the capacity to deliver their project, by developed project documentation and financial construction. UNDP, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environmental protection, use the Project Accelerator.

Accelerator. The **Accelerator** is virtual co-sharing space and a help desk for project applicants for technical support and an opportunity to further elaborate project concepts, get mentoring and test the proposed solution. The selected teams will receive all the coaching and support free of charge. In the acceleration phase, specific workshops, boot camps and site visits will also be organized.

Co-financing mechanism for supporting implementation

For the projects selected as finalists and considered to be ready for actual implementation (upon completion of the acceleration phase), there will be an opportunity of co-financing of the implementation costs. The co-financing will be provided through Performance - Based Payments Agreements mechanism. Criteria for the final selection will include progress made during the acceleration phase, secured financial resources, complete project documents and property rights, sustainability and additionality. A co-financing grant scheme will be finalized in the period from October 2020 to September 2021. Individual grants per project will depend on the project investment value:

Investment value	Individual grants per project
Small project (up to USD 100,000)	Up to USD 50,000
Medium projects (USD 100,000 – USD 1 mil)	Up to USD 100,000
Big projects (investment value exceeds USD 1 mil)	Up to USD 200,000

* The number of projects selected as a finalist for the implementation and value of individual grants can be increased based on the additional funding resources.

The co-financing resources will be delivered based on the agreed timeline for each delivery. The projects will be considered completed once the investment itself is ready to operate (e.g. use permit is issued or business plan becomes operational).

PHASE 3: IMPLEMENTATION

From October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021

In the implementation phase, the Finalists will have to put their ideas into action, their progress will be monitored, and this will lead to the eventual selection of the final award winners. The focus of this phase is on achieving successful implementation and evidence of outcomes. A kick-off session will be organized to bring all finalists together and to make sure they understand expectations in the implementation phase. Based on the need, the Project team can also consider supporting each Finalist to set up a local launching event as a way of effectively initiating the activities with the involvement of specific target communities/users. Implementation of the project has to be finalized until 30 September, 2021 the latest.

PHASE 4: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

From October 1, 2021 until December 1, 2021

Monitoring and reporting phase shall take a minimum of 2 months in total. This time limit will also be considered when evaluating and selecting the finalists. Field visits will be organized, with the involvement of the Project team and Judges, or at least one visit will be arranged coinciding with the Finalists' last report. If necessary, a new mechanism will be created to monitor GHG emissions reduction, if those already available are not suitable for specific projects. Moreover, monitoring and reporting system can be established online and in a real-time system, or through the existing Open Data system.

All Finalists will have an opportunity to showcase their projects at the Final Event. This event will be arranged for all participants and partners in the project implementation process, including other organizations and local self-governments that might further support replicability. During the process of implementation and evaluation, a documentary movie will be filmed, to promote the benefits of individual projects and to demonstrate the value of innovations and community engagement.

How to apply for Innovation Challenge?



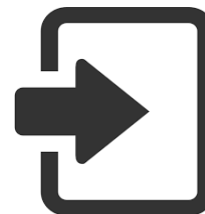
**Review eligibility and
evaluation criteria**



**Download the
application form**



**Complete the
application online**



Submit

Applications must be submitted via the project webpage at
<http://inovacije.klimatskepromene.rs/en/biowaste-challenge/>
until 5 p.m on April 22, 2020.

Application form

Application form for Climate Smart Bio - Waste Management Challenge

The application must be completed in Serbian and summary of the proposed project idea has to be provided in both languages, Serbian and English. You have to address and respond to each question. When completing application form, please consider that space provided for some questions are limited, and it is clearly stated.

The application needs to be submitted through online platform, which can be accessed on the following website: <http://inovacije.klimatskeprome.rs>.

Please attach the following documents in support of your application:

- Proof of registration in the Serbian Business Registers Agency for private companies and civil society organizations (NGOs, associations, foundations) not older than 10 days before submission,
- Proven record of previous experience in relevant sectors (list of implemented projects, if applicable),
- The reference lists and CVs of personnel for both, the lead applicant and the team members (other applicants),
- Draft partnership agreement (if applicable),
- Statement confirming co-financing commitments.

Important:

- **Please ensure that you upload the final and complete version of your application by the deadline.**
- **The application form contains specific fields and it is important that you complete each field. If any of the field is incomplete, application will be rejected.**
- **When populating the application form, please consult relevant evaluation criteria!**

Application details	
Title	Enter the full title of the project idea
Project duration	(expressed in months)
Lead applicant	
Name of the Lead applicant	Enter the full registered name of the lead applicant for the project (if lead applicant is private company or civil society organization please fill in the identification number and tax identification number)

Contact details of the Lead applicant	Enter the full name, address, postal code, e-mail address and telephone number of the main point of contact
Lead applicant's website	
Experience, skills and expertise (of the lead applicant and its personnel)	
Other project applicants (if applicable)	
Name of project applicant	Enter the full name and type of organization
Contact person	Enter the full name, address, postal code, e-mail address and telephone number
Applicant's website	
Role and added value of the applicant (experience, skills and expertise of the applicant and its personnel)	
Previous experience with joint activities (if applicable)	
Summary of the proposed project idea	
Please provide a short summary, including the scope and objective/s of the project	The summary should present the main description of the project idea, with sufficient information to provide a clear understanding of the challenge and its overall goal. It should also clearly present how the project will achieve its objective/s. Summary should be no more than 300 words. (up to 300 words in Serbian language and up to 300 words in English language)
Project description	
Detail project description	Background (general information about the applicant, main description, characteristics of the local self-government in which project will be conducted, number of employees dealing with the issues within the scope of the project); Please describe some basic assumptions on which the project is based on; Alignment with the Climate Smart Bio-Waste Management Challenge objectives: A description of the project should include an explanation of how the proposed project addresses the challenge;

	<p>How will the proposed idea provide the solution for a particular issue/problem?</p> <p>Sustainability plan (description)</p>
The project details	
<p>What approach (technical, technological, business model etc.) will be applied and how will the project be managed?</p>	<p>Please provide an overview of the approach (technical, technological, business model etc.) and methodology that your project tends to apply to respond to the Challenge.</p> <p>Please describe how is the approach and methodology appropriate to the project, problems it tends to solve and how is it innovative.</p> <p>Please describe the project plan so that it reflects the complexity of the project.</p> <p>Make sure that the project idea demonstrates enough resource commitment and capacities of the applicant(s) to implement the project.</p>
<p>What is innovative about the project?</p>	<p>Applicant(s) need to consider some of the following questions: What are the innovative elements of the proposed idea? Does it represent the implementation of an existing idea into new operational settings etc? Why will your innovation be successful in addressing the problem compared to some other more standard approach?</p>
<p>What are the risks to project success and what is the project's risk management strategy?</p>	<p>Please identify the key risks and uncertainties of the project and how the project would mitigate these risks.</p>
<p>Do the project applicant(s) have skills and experience to implement the proposed project?</p>	<p>Please describe the previously implemented projects/activities relevant for the Climate Smart Bio-waste Management Challenge.</p> <p>Please explain experience and role of your team members.</p>
<p>Activities of the project (including timetable)</p>	<p>What major activities would be required for applicant(s) to implement the proposed Project, how does the proposed Project fit in with your existing activities, how local community will be engaged?</p>

<p>Expected Impact/s and Outcomes</p>	<p>Describe the major impacts and outcomes of the project;</p> <p>Describe how the project will impact on reducing the amount of bio-waste being generated and/or landfilled. How the project impacts in terms of greenhouse gasses (GHG) emissions reduction? What are GHG reduction potential and the average GHG reduction costs by the proposed project?</p> <p>How will you measure impact/s of the project (bio-waste amount not being generated/ landfilled and accordingly GHG emission reduction)?</p> <p>How the proposed solution addresses priorities at the national and local level?</p> <p>How the project will impact the functioning of the local self-government, what would be economic, social and environmental benefits?</p> <p>Who are project beneficiaries and how will they be affected by this project and how will they be involved in the project?</p> <p>How the project will impact vulnerable groups (youth, women, marginalized groups)?</p>
<p>Gender approach</p>	<p>Please elaborate on the approach for mainstreaming the gender, acknowledging the complementary roles of both, women and men, in order to obtain gender equality.</p>
<p>Expected project budget</p>	<p>Please indicate the anticipated project costs against planned activities and ultimate goal. Clearly present the contribution from any project partners.</p> <p>How the funds necessary for the project implementation will be secured (include the sources, structure and any supporting documentation as evidence)?</p>

Signature

In _____, date

Evaluation criteria for Project Proposals

Criteria	Maximum score	Description
The Idea	10	<p>Are the overall project objectives and expected outcomes clear, relevant, innovative and precisely defined?</p> <p>Did the applicant consider all aspects of biowaste management (collection, transport and treatment) and/or hierarchy (prevention, reduction or recovery)?</p>
Operational and management capacity	10	<p>Do applicants have the relevant skills, expertise, experience and resources to implement the project successfully within the timeframe?</p> <p>Detail explanation of experience and prior references of the proposing team.</p> <p>Complementarity of the participants and the extent to which the consortium as whole brings together the necessary expertise;</p>
Effectiveness and consistency of proposed outputs and activities	20	<p>Are the proposed activities and methods of implementation clear, coherent and adequate for achieving the project goals and expected results and outcomes?</p> <p>Are the targeted area(s) of intervention and scope relevant and realistic?</p>
Innovation	20	<p>How is proposal innovative (what is the novelty value of the proposed solution in Serbia)? Is the concept, technology or approach clearly described?</p> <p>Testability within the challenge program duration will also be evaluated.</p>
Impact	20	<p>What is the expected amount of biowaste that will be prevented from a generation or landfilled? What is expected GHG emission reduction and the average GHG reduction costs by the proposed pilot project?</p> <p>What is the cost-efficiency of the proposed solution (considering both, the GHG reduction and the</p>

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		<p>complementary economic, financial, social and environmental benefits)?</p> <p>How the proposed solution addresses priorities at the national and local level? In which way the proposed solution addresses the challenge themes and how does it prioritize impact on youth, women and/or marginalized groups?</p>
Sustainability and replicability	10	Does the project have the potential to be scaled up and/or replicated over time and be implemented by other stakeholders in Serbia?
Project Budget	10	<p>Are the project costs realistic, how the costs are planned against the proposed activities and goals?</p> <p>Co-financing commitments already provided to test the solution will be additionally scored.</p>
Total	100	

CONTACT INFORMATION

For information visit:

<http://inovacije.klimatskepromene.rs/en/biowaste-challenge/>

Questions?

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