

EMSD Challenge Fund – Second Call for Proposals

EMSD Challenge Fund

Calling on

- private sector enterprises and initiatives
- financial market actors and stakeholders
- think tanks/research institutes
- government agencies
- international organisations

to submit joint project proposals seeking impact through sustainable

- corporate practices and business models
- finance processes and instruments
- economic policy measures/incentives

Project funding range EUR 50,000-100,000

Minimum partner contribution per project should be one-third of total project volume (in cash or kind)

About Us

EMSD is a member-driven network of think tanks, multinational corporations, and the financial sector. Our members jointly develop and implement solutions for sustainable economic growth pathways in emerging economies through consultation, dialogue, and research.

We work on concrete economic policy recommendations, financial instruments and processes, as well as sustainable business solutions.

We bring these solutions into national and international fora (such as the G20 and its Engagement Groups, and BRICS or United Nations processes) to contribute to the global sustainability transition and the protection of global public goods.

For more information, please visit our website at www.emsdialogues.org.



Send proposals to emsdialogues@giz.de

What we are looking for

The Emerging Market Sustainability Dialogues (EMSD) calls for proposals for the second financing round of its Challenge Fund. Expected funding range should be from EUR 50,000 to 100,000 per project. We expect to fund between three and five projects in this second call. Project partners are required to contribute at least a third of the total project volume from their own funds – in cash and/or in kind.

The Fund is open to a wide variety of projects, with different topics, target groups, and approaches. At the same time, projects are expected to have a **concrete impact in line with the global sustainability agenda, and with outputs that benefit stakeholders and societies** more broadly. Reflecting EMSD's philosophy, projects must be designed and implemented **across more than one region, by partners from at least two of the following key stakeholder groups, with at least one partner from an emerging economy:**¹

- private sector enterprises and initiatives
- financial market actors and stakeholders
- think tanks/research institutes
- government authorities/policy makers
- international organisations

The Fund seeks to **bridge the gap between communities of practice and thinking**. It aims at **incubating projects** that by their specific cross-stakeholder character, cross-regional scope and pilot ambition may **not fit into traditional funding categories** and mechanisms.

The [EMSD website](#) gives an overview of our existing portfolio, ranging from sustainability guidelines for mining and infrastructure, to green bonds capacity building as well as sustainability gains in the digital economy. Equally welcome are project proposals that **tackle completely new challenges** and **explore new promising avenues** to develop sustainable policy, business and finance solutions.

Successful projects from the first Call include (1) the implementation of infrastructure sustainability tools on a pilot basis in Latin America and India; (2) a feasibility-study and investor road-show of Fintech tools in Southern and Eastern Africa, building on successful strategies and experiences in China; (3) an assessment of ESG performance of emerging market enterprises in foreign direct investment and dissemination of best practices on how

¹ We look for projects bridging continents or at least sub-continents. Emerging Economies in the context of this call are BRICS + Next Eleven + Countries beyond this core list that have been part of EMSD's outreach already such as Chile, Kazakhstan, Colombia, Peru, Argentina. Other country foci should be discussed prior to submission.

such FDI can contribute to SDGs; and (4) an analysis of the sustainability performance of big platform economy companies and development of sustainability enhancing operational guidelines to be piloted by partnering platform companies.

Eligibility Criteria

To fulfill the formal eligibility criteria, project proposals should:

- be submitted following the guidelines set out in the “EMSD Challenge Fund Form” ([Annex A](#))
- include a completed “EMSD Challenge Fund Budget Form” ([Annex B](#)), indicating how the funds will be used. Importantly, staff costs may only constitute ≤ 40 % of the amount awarded by the Challenge Fund
- specify partner contributions of at least one third of overall project budget
- be demonstrably not-for-profit and in compliance with GIZ rules and regulations (www.giz.de/financing)

How the selection and funding processes work

→ New proceedings in this second Call for Proposals to the EMSD Challenge Fund: The application and selection process will be conducted in a single round.

A committee of EMSD staff members will short-list up to ten project proposals and submit them to the jury composed of one representative from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), one from GIZ/EMSD, and three external experts, reflecting the regional and thematic diversity of EMSD.

Successful projects will receive the allocated funding on the basis of a grant agreement signed by GIZ/EMSD and the project lead organisation.

Contacts: Antje Uhlig (antje.uhlig@giz.de) and John Hauert (john.hauert@giz.de)

Annexes: Application Form ([Annex A](#)); Budget Form ([Annex B](#))