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MEDinCHAMBERS

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Participation of Micro-Small-Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and Material Flow analysis (MFA) Exercise and Sustainability Training Bootcamp

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1. Overview

MEDinCHAMBERS is a project co-funded by the European Union under the Interreg NEXT MED Programme that brings together Chambers of Commerce and key textile-sector stakeholders from Italy, Spain, Greece, Tunisia, Egypt, and Türkiye to advance the transition to a sustainable Mediterranean textile ecosystem, through:

- **Strengthening cross-border governance** in the TCLF (Textile, Clothing, Leather & Footwear) value chains across the Mediterranean.
- **Supporting MSMEs** with tailored services, digital tools, and practical guidance for adopting circular business models and sustainable manufacturing practices.
- **Establishing local knowledge hubs and Living Labs** that foster innovation, experimentation, and capacity building.
- **Developing a shared knowledge framework (Digital Detector Service)** that maps relevant regulations, best practices, risks, needs, and opportunities to address critical barriers arising from business fragmentation and regulatory complexity, and to reinforce sustainability initiatives.
- **Promoting cross-border collaboration** among Chambers of Commerce, research institutions, and industry actors to accelerate sustainable growth.

The project directly responds to the EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles, supporting Mediterranean MSMEs—many of which are export-oriented—to align with emerging requirements, improve resource efficiency, and strengthen their competitiveness in EU markets.

More specifically, during this call, a maximum of 3 Micro/Small/Medium-Sized Companies (MSMEs) per country will be selected to undergo an **Evaluation of environmental performance, as depicted below**. Moreover, 1 or 2 of the MSMEs selected could be financially supported (upon request) for their participation in international events, depending on the Project Partner's budget providing the financial support.



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2. Benefits for MSMEs participating in the MEDinCHAMBERS Project

- **Evaluation of environmental performance (LCA & MFA):** A full Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and Material Flow Analysis (MFA) will be conducted, providing a detailed and quantified analysis of the environmental performance of one key representative product for each company. The assessment (cradle to gate) will be conducted by project partners with expertise in LCA, using specialized LCA software. Companies will be supported in identifying the processes with the highest environmental impacts and their critical environmental “hot spots” that require improvement.
- **Mentoring and technical assistance for developing environmental strategies and action plans:** The core group of MSMEs will receive mentoring and technical assistance based on the outcomes of the previously conducted LCA and MFA and by leveraging the project’s Digital Detector Service to develop strategies and action plans aimed at reducing their environmental footprint and integrating circular economy practices.
- **Interaction with the national and international sustainability ecosystem:** Participating MSMEs will have the opportunity to interact with policymakers and share their perspectives for consideration in policy development, along with representatives from academia and civil society.
- **Recognition:** Participating MSMEs will be recognized and showcased at national and international levels through their presentations, including a communication brochure presenting the pilot results in a concise and accessible format for wider dissemination, as well as through voluntary participation in Local Pilot Knowledge Hubs and in a cross-national bootcamp to be held in Barcelona, Spain, from 14 to 18 September 2026. The transnational event, together with the living lab and the matchmaking study visits will play a key role for activating the process to turn the support service in a common and accessible public service tool, allowing its wider usage even in different contexts and countries, with other players and MSMEs. During 1-week bootcamp, the selected TCLF operators will be skilled to understand green TCLF business models, to implement new green governance in own production as well as to disseminate to other players.



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3. Financial support

The project will not provide any direct financial support to selected companies (e.g. in form of vouchers, grants or any **issuance of relevant certificates**).

LCA and MFA pilot implementations, including technical support and mentoring, will be provided free of charge to participating MSMEs.

4. Eligibility criteria

The organisation or partnership of organisations must demonstrate:

- 1) **Legal status:** Registered Micro, Small, or Medium-Sized Enterprise (MSME) operating within the eligible territories of the MEDinCHAMBERS project, namely Italy, Spain, Greece, Tunisia, Egypt, and Türkiye.
- 2) **Activity:** Manufacturing in the Textiles, Clothing, Leather, and Footwear (TCLF) sector, with products [covered by the Apparel & Footwear PEFCE categories](#). Priority is given to companies performing multiple-stage industrial processes with significant production volumes and high environmental impact.
- 3) **Commitment to the project scope:** Willingness to collaborate throughout the assessment process, participate in interviews, provide reliable operational data, and designate at least one responsible contact person -preferably from senior management- capable of engaging other staff and ensuring smooth communication and coordination throughout the MEDinCHAMBERS project.
- 4) **Absence of disqualifying conditions:** no bankruptcy, liquidation, involvement in sectors prohibited under Interreg rules, non-compliance with national law, or other legal impediments.

5. Application and selection procedure

Companies willing to participate in MEDinCHAMBERS should fill the application form "**Expression of Interest (EoI)**" (Annex I) and send it along with any supplementary documents (described in the next paragraph) via email:

Companies from **Spain** at euprojects@camaraitaliana.com



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Companies from **Italy** at ambiente@cueim.it

Companies from **Greece** at kondyli@certh.gr

Companies from **Türkiye** at euprojects@cciizmir.org

Companies from **Egypt** at info@ceeba.org

Companies from **Tunisia** at projects@ctici.org.tn

Applications from each country will be reviewed at national level by the corresponding appointed Chamber of Commerce, and, where applicable, by the Project Partner. Each of them will compile a list of eligible companies and forward the shortlist with the 3 selected candidates to CERTH (Centre for Research & Technology Hellas), which will proceed to the **Evaluation of their environmental performance**. During the selection process, companies may be contacted to provide additional information. The MEDinCHAMBERS team will oversee the evaluation and selection process, and upon its completion, applicants will be notified accordingly.

MSME Companies will be selected according to the following criteria:

- 1) **Number:** Up to 3 companies per country for the **Evaluation of environmental performance**, and up to 2 companies per country (depending on linked partner's budget) for the participation in the **Sustainability Training Bootcamp in Spain (Sept. 2026)**
- 2) **Commitment:** LCA requires the provision of primary data from the MSME and, where applicable, from its suppliers. MSMEs must declare willingness to share data and engage with value chain partners for the purposes of the project.
- 3) **Environmental impact:** Companies with multiple-stage industrial processes, significant production volumes, and high environmental impact are considered most suitable for LCA and MFA assessments and therefore preferred.
- 4) **Comparable products:** Companies producing similar products will allow cross-regional comparisons and more effective exchange of sustainable models and practices. To have at least two similar product types for comparisons, priority will be given to two companies per country producing denim or T-shirts (if applicable).



- 5) **Internal Capacity & Potential:** Priority will be given to companies with the internal capacity and potential to implement project recommendations and sustain continuous improvements over time. Indicators of a company's capacity and potential include existing environmental certifications (e.g., ISO 14001, OEKO-TEX, GRS), previous energy audits and ESG reports, prior experience with ecodesign, circularity, or resource efficiency practices, previous participation in sustainability programmes, and the availability of digital documentation systems (e.g., ERP) to ensure the integrity and accuracy of collected data.
- 6) **Target Markets:** To maximize the project's impact on the Mediterranean TCLF ecosystem, priority will be given to companies producing widely traded products and actively participating in international value chains. A brief company profile will facilitate the assessment of the company under this criterion.
- 7) **Gender considerations (optional):** MEDinCHAMBERS promotes inclusiveness by prioritizing women owned or women led MSMEs, or those with significant female representation in management. This criterion is optional and will not influence the eligibility or the ranking of applicants, but it will be taken into consideration in cases where two applicants receive identical scores.

6. Supplementary Documents

Applicants are invited to submit the following supporting documents together with their Expression of Interest:

- **Proof of MSME status**, such as a recent Chamber of Commerce registration extract or equivalent national documentation.
- **Company profile or brief portfolio**, Company profile or brief portfolio, including an overview of the company and its products; indications regarding production capacity; percentage of domestic and export sales and market share (if available); and the main foreign markets.
- **Optional: Relevant certificates** (e.g., environmental, quality, or social compliance certifications) that the MSME wishes to share in support of its company profile. These documents are not required and will not affect eligibility but will be used in the selection procedure.



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All supplementary documents should be submitted in PDF format.

7. Program timeline and phases

1. Launch for the Call for Expression of Interest: 24/02/2026 to 31/03/2026
2. Deadline for the selection of companies: 24/04/2026
3. Duration for the collection of data from MSMEs: 24/04/2026 to 24/06/2026
4. Duration of the LCA and MFA study: 24/06/2026 to 24/08/2026
5. Share the results with the MSMEs and provide them with customized action plans for their green transition pathway

8. Information sharing and confidentiality

Any information shared during the project will be used solely to support environmental assessment and improvement, and not for commercial performance evaluation or benchmarking.

All information shared by participating MSMEs during the LCA and MFA assessments will be treated as confidential. Operational data, production details, and any business-sensitive information will be used exclusively for the MEDinCHAMBERS project and will not be disclosed to third parties outside the project consortium.

Company raw data and project results related to the LCA and MFA studies will be published as part of the MEDinCHAMBERS project communication activities. The company name may be published or remain anonymized, depending on the company's preference.

The information to be shared may include any data necessary to ensure accurate sustainability analysis results within the scope of **MEDinCHAMBERS** (Annex II).

9. Support

MSMEs are encouraged to contact the MEDinCHAMBERS team, more specifically the Chambers of Commerce and the Project partners, where applicable, for guidance or questions related to the call, via email as follows:



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