

Request for Proposals – Transitioning to an Inclusive Circular Economy and Fashion Industry Frequently Asked Questions

1) Which types of organisations are eligible to apply?

Registered non-governmental organisations / non-profit / social enterprises / government entities / universities are eligible to apply if they meet the requirements outlined.

Private companies are eligible to apply, if they meet the requirements outlined to benefit the whole industry and improve lives/livelihoods of people touched by a circular fashion industry. It must be made very clear why a grant is needed, and why the company cannot pay for the initiative itself or cannot raise the funds by other means. Grants cannot be used to subsidise costs that a business could assume itself or benefit one or a small group of businesses only. Methodologies, data and results will be made publicly available.

Individuals are not eligible to apply.

2) My organisation runs a clothing-related company that operates circular initiatives and has a good track record for its social performance (such as working conditions, diversity or other). Or, I run a consulting company operating in these domains. Can I apply to expand my company and its social-related programmes?

No, we are seeking initiatives that can benefit people touched by many companies, not benefit one company or a small group of companies. The grant funding cannot subsidise business development costs or employee benefits programmes. The proposal must outline how the initiative will be used and scaled to benefit people across the industry and specifically how this is linked to the transition or implementation of circular business practices and models.

3) My organisation runs research or initiatives on circular economy in general, or in a sector other than the apparel industry, can I apply?

Yes, if you can demonstrate why the initiative is relevant to the apparel industry and how the results will be applied in the apparel industry.

4) My organisation runs research or initiatives on gender, working conditions or similar in general, or in another sector, can I apply?

Yes, if you can demonstrate how the initiative is applicable to transitioning and implementing circular business models specifically in the apparel industry.

5) Can the applying organisation be headquartered in any country or are there geographic restrictions?

Initiatives must be applied to, or be operating in, one or more of C&A Foundation's operating countries – Brazil, Mexico, countries within Europe, Bangladesh, India, China, Indonesia, Cambodia or Sri Lanka.

The proposing institution can be based in any country. However, it must have a history of working in the country and/or a significant amount of the proposed budget should be allocated to a partner based in that country.

6) Are there any restrictions on the type of expenses that may be included?

There are no restrictions on the types of expenditure that may be included, provided that they are directly related to the initiative objectives and are necessary for its implementation. Please note that administrative costs should be estimated at roughly 10-15% of the total cost of the project. Human resources expenditures (salaries, etc.) should take into account the sustainability of the initiative once the C&A Foundation's support ends. Important: All project expenses must be proportional to the total cost of the project.

7) Do initiatives require co-funding?

Co-funding is encouraged, but not required. Larger requests without co-funding should explain why co-funding is not possible.

8) What kind of collaborative initiatives / partnerships are permitted?

All types of collaborations are permitted – transitioning to a circular economy will require new ways of working and engagement amongst stakeholders to address the issues at hand, which is why we will prioritise collaborative initiatives.

9) Will proposals for less than EUR 100,000, or above EUR 500,000, be considered?

Proposals for less than EUR 100,000 will be considered. Requests for EUR 500,000 or more cannot be considered, but the funds can go to co-fund larger initiatives, or to scope out or plan larger initiatives.

10) My organization is in the process of registering as a formal civil society organisation and is expected to receive its legal registration number close to or within a few days of the call for concept note deadline. Is it possible to submit a concept note?

Yes, please send the documentation that demonstrates where you are in the registration process along with the concept note. However, it is key to explain in the concept note how the organization and its team have the experience and trajectory to implement the work proposed. Please note, the organisation must be a registered entity at the time of approval in order to receive a grant.

Unfortunately, we are unable to answer further individual enquiries on this request for proposals.