



Interreg

Austria-Hungary

European Union – European Regional Development Fund



IMPROVE!



IMPROVE! - DIGICALL OPEN CALL

WP3 DEVELOP!

T3.3.1 OPEN CALL FOR PILOT PROJECTS

Version 2

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Table of content

Table of content	2
1 Background of the Open call	3
2 Name of the Open call.....	3
3 Open call provider	3
4 Purpose and objective of the open call.....	3
5 Subject of the open call.....	4
5.1 Activities to be implemented under the project.....	4
5.2 Ineligible activities	7
6 Conditions for submitting a pilot project application	8
6.1 Eligibility conditions.....	8
6.2 Deadline and method for submitting an application/Application procedure.....	8
7 Evaluation and selection process	10
7.1.1 Criteria for evaluation of the application	10
7.1.2 Selection process.....	10
8 Information on financing.....	11
9 Confidentiality	12
10 Contact points	13
11 Annexes	14
Annex1 APPLICATION FORM	14
Annex2 DECLARATION BY THE APPLICANT	18
Annex3 DE MINIMIS DECLARATION	19

1 Background of the Open call

The open call was launched in the frame of IMPROVE! Project which is an Austrian-Hungarian cross-border cooperation of digital innovation hubs for joint service portfolio and specialization. Digitalization is bringing enormous challenges for businesses across all sectors. By linking organizations dedicated to digital transformation from both sides of the border, the necessary pool of knowledge could be gained and contribute to the successful transformation of the companies.

The overall goal of the project is to strengthen the performance of the start-ups and innovation capacity of the SMEs with new digitization solutions provided by the AT-HU DIH network thus contributing to increasing the competitiveness of the business sector in the region. The complex DIH service package and the long-term DIH strategy elaborated in the project enhance the successful digitization transformation of 10 businesses contributing to the chances of survival of these and additional SMEs in the region.

The project aims to create an environment that encourages the digitization and innovation of SMEs through close cooperation of in the ATHU region already existing or newly established DIHs. On the other hand, it seeks to reach promotion and further development (thematic working groups) as well as testing the digital solutions of the DIH network in pilot projects.

2 Name of the Open call

Open call for implementation of digital solutions within the IMPROVE! project

3 Open call provider

IMPROVE! Partners (see Chapter 10) on the basis of the conditions defined below, invites all interested parties, to submit an application for the implementation of the services for establishing the pilot project.

4 Purpose and objective of the open call

The open call for establishing the pilot project is carried out within the activities of IMPROVE! project, implemented under the Interreg V-A Austria-Hungary Cooperation Programme 2014-2020:

- Work Package 3 DEVELOPE! - Pilot projects for operationalization in digitalization for businesses, contributing to transfer and co-operation activities
 - Activity T3.3.3: Pilot projects with integrated DIH competencies – only with cross-DIH functionalities

The **purpose** of the open call is to implement innovative solutions into SME's life by **testing a cross-regional service scheme** that supports digital transition of the cross-border region through supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups to apply digital solutions.

The **objective** of the call is to translate the digitalization tools into **tangible applications** for SMEs and start-ups in pilot projects, while relying on the complete portfolio of the ATHU DIH network.

5 Subject of the open call

The subject of the open call is to provide services of free of charge for pilot projects implemented by SMEs and start-ups registered in Hungary or Austria close cooperation with IMPROVE! project partner(s) as solution provider(s).

The subject of the pilot project are digital solutions that fall into at least one of the following areas:

- Production
- Engineering
- Software
- AI/Machine learning
- Electronics

5.1 Activities to be implemented under the project

The following activities are eligible under the Call:

Production	
3D scanning	Digitalise unique objects and components using a 3D scanner under operating conditions. The technology makes it possible to create point clouds for smaller or larger devices (max.1 m in size), which enables the creation of their 3D CAD model. Before scanning, the object is tested for feasibility.
3D modelling	Design and preparation of the 3D model of individual objects, parts, product design depending on the complexity of the product.
3D printing alloys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on Solidworks • Tool steel or titanium only • SME has to cover the cost for material • Existing part will be provided by SME at high quality • The service provider will only do corrections and optimizations based on needs for 3D printing • 1 part at max. • 1 print at max.
3D printing ink jet	Design of a Multi material system for printing with Inkjet Printing of Prototypes based on a multimaterial printer (Stratasys) Individual printing of objects and components with curved surfaces
3D printing polymer	Printing products based on 3D model with FDM and SLA technologies. Individual consultation is required before implementation
Prototyping, reverse engineering	Prototype printing based on existing 3D model or sample and making necessary modifications. Individual consultation is required before implementation
3D animation (for product development and marketing activities)	Unique marketing solutions using computer animation (CGI). The technology allows us to present our product even at the design or prototype stage with realistic animation or corporate image creation for advertising purposes. Individual consultation is required before implementation.
SCADA/MESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interface to SCADA and manufacturing execution systems • Interface descriptions are provided by SME • Middleware based on TRL6 • 1 usecase at max.

<p>Product Development by business model canvas, idea generating workshops, agile methods and participation</p>	<p>Feedback from customers and market research is always very important before certain products are developed or to improve existing solutions. Therefore, in the framework of this pilot actions, we can carry out a participatory process to find out which products are needed/demanded with which functionalities, price, specifications before production/prototype design by using tested qualitative/quantitative methods (For instance quantitative online-surveys or 10-15 Interviews or 2/3 workshops/focus groups).</p>
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Engineering	
<p>Topology optimization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on Solidworks • Existing part will be provided by SME at high quality • The service provider will not correct or redesign the part • 1 part at max.
<p>CAD (Computer Added Design)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on Solidworks • 3D models • Existing part will be provided by SME at high quality • The service provider will only do corrections and optimizations based on needs for 3D printing • 1 part at max.
<p>Collaborative robotics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a collaborative proposal for pre-identified workflows in companies. This includes the suggestion of the tools to be acquired (robot, gripper, sensor, etc.), as well as after purchasing of the tools the demonstration programming of the workflow, as required. • Consulting and Development of a Collaborative Robot System, Testing and Validation in the service provider's Labs; Testing of »X Rob System« for specified USE Cases
<p>Business modell</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management tool for tracking Key performance Indicators (KPIs) in production processes • Business / manufacturing process modelled in Business Process Model and Notation (BPNM) • PJM (Performance Journey Map) tool - a digital tool for the visualization of service processes, as a basis for the optimization of processes
<p>Mechatronic Engineering, simulation systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimisation of energy efficiency • Development of prototypes and demonstrators • Image recognition • 3D models • Simulation calculations (mechanical, electrical, magnetic ...) • Automation of processes

Software	
<p>AR – Augmented Reality</p>	<p>Extended reality applications (iOS, Android) in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visualisation of company or production data (smart phone, tablet) • process, product or corporate marketing applications (smart phone, tablet, webAR)
<p>VR System - Assembly Eye</p>	<p>Testing of USER specified human-centered processes production processes: The Assembly Eye uses a standard camera. With the associated software from the service provider, it can extract the movements of the individual actors from the image data in spatial and temporal context and digitize relevant information for the process flow. Depending on requirements, this can be the basis for (real-time) analysis tools or input for trainable system intelligence (deep learning methodology).</p>

Cloud – Microsoft Azure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smartphone APP development usually comprises of the APP part as well as cloud (database) part • We would cover either a smartphone app or a webapp comprising of three technical parts at a max • For smartphone APPS: either Andorid or iOS • Based on C# and .NET Core only • Based on TRL6 • We do not publish smartphone APPs to the stores within the project • 1 project at max
Payment systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interface development to payment provider • Based on C# and .NET Core only • only covering following provider: Ogone, PayLife, Cardcomplete • based on TRL6 • 1 usecase at max.
Usability testing	<p>One of the most important factors of websites and webshops is user-friendliness. If customers can't find the desired information on your website, they will probably search on another website of your competitors. Usability Tests are used to find out how customers navigate through your website and which factors can be optimized in order to increase the user-friendliness. In the framework of this project, a pilot action with approximately 15 participants can be carried out to analyze websites/webshops/prototypes/etc. (depending on the complexity of the stimuli).</p>
Eye-tracking	<p>Eye-Tracking can be used to evaluate which elements on websites, tv-ads, marketing stimuli, etc. are clearly visible and which are not (often combined with usability-testing). These results can help to optimize the examined stimulus.</p> <p>In the framework of this project, a pilot action with approximately 15 participants can be carried out (depending on the complexity of the stimuli).</p>
Emotional Analysis	<p>Emotions are often crucial factors in purchasing decisions and therefore need careful investigation. By using Galvanic Skin Response (GSR) you can analyze objectively if certain stimuli are emotionally appealing to customers or not (websites/prototypes/ads). Within the framework of this project a pilot action with approximately 15 participants can be carried out (depending on the complexity of the stimuli, can also be combined with usability testing).</p>
Digital marketing	<p>Within the framework of the pilot action, we can assist SMEs with setting up of a Social Media Strategy and their Target Group Analysis. Furthermore, we can carry out general Social Media Teachings and provide a Digital Marketing Strategy for companys (with SEO-Readiness Check).</p>
Smart digital service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control technology and PLC (Programmable Logic Controller) programming • Integration and programming of micro controllers • Development of intelligent algorithms for the optimisation of processes • Development of apps for smart devices (e.g. Android devices) • Digitization of objects through 3D measurement • Development and implementation of innovative communication networks • Mobile devices and RFID • Virtual reality • Digitization of energy flows, networking of spatially separated laboratories, home automation
Innovation tools, models, integration,	<p>Application of innovation tools to elaborate an action plan for further development of the SME</p>

AI/Machine learning	
Customer data analysis processes	<p>Using existing data to develop solutions that can strengthen the profitability and efficiency of businesses.</p> <p>By analysing customers, we propose a purchase value or frequency, we categorise customers in a unique way (segmentation) or predict who will be a unique and recurring customer (classification). By creating algorithms, solutions can be implemented in a completely autonomous manner. Our aim is to enable smaller non-Series manufacturers to use data analysis services. Our specialty is to create algorithms for small and medium-sized databases. We are able to analyse tens of thousands of websites so that the company can evaluate both its image and market changes (NLP – natural language processes)</p>
Unique algorithm solutions in data analysis	
Segmentation processes	
Data visualization	

Electronics	
Electronics development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing and designing electronic circuits and printed circuit boards • manufacture small and very small batches with our internal production line
Industrial measurement technology and measurement automation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conduct different kinds of measurements of existing devices • acquire data about the devices' efficiency and characteristic values in different environmental conditions.
sensors/actuators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedded systems • Sensor integration and control units • Development of energy-efficient hardware systems for the corresponding requirements of sensors • Sensor, sensor node, network communication, energy harvesting
IoT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setup the communication between a cloud service and an IoT capable device or develop a middleware • Based on C# and .NET Core only • For smartphone APPS: either Andorid or iOS • Based on TRL6 • 1 project at max

Mixed solution of the above mentioned services

5.2 Ineligible activities

In the frame of the call beyond the activities defined under chapter 5.1 shall not be eligible.

6 Conditions for submitting a pilot project application

6.1 Eligibility conditions

- The application must be a simple application in which the applicant defines the digital service(s)
- APPLICANT may only be a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise¹ and start-up organized as a legal or natural person who is engaged in economic activity in the programme area (Győr-Moson-Sopron, Vas und Zala County in Hungary and Nord-, Mittel- and Südburgenland, Wien, Wiener Umland-Südteil, Niederösterreich Süd, Graz und Oststeiermark in Austria) and is organized as a company or sole proprietor with a business address in Hungary or Austria.
- The applicant is not in equity or in any other way proprietary or management related to the open call providers (see Chapter 10).
- The applicant may apply to the open call with only one application. If several applications of the same Applicant arise, only the first arrived application is considered, while the others are discarded.
- The pilot project must be consistent with the purpose and subject of the public call.

Necessary steps for the implementation of the pilot project:

1. applicants define the problem they would like to solve in the pilot project (submitting the application form)
2. partners present a proposal for a solution
3. agreement on proposal
4. partners implement a pilot project with applicant,
5. applicant with relevant partners prepare a report, following the template in this open call and analyse effects of the pilot project.

6.2 Deadline and method for submitting an application/Application procedure

Opening date	Closing date
25 th January 2021	30 th April 2021 Until 16:00

The deadline for submitting the application is 30.04.2021 until 16.00.

The application on defined forms in this open call documentation has to be submitted electronically to the address: info@pbn.hu AND the relevant regional contact point (see Chapter 10) in copy.

¹ The size of the enterprise shall be determined in accordance with Annex I of Commission Regulation (EU) 651/2014, accessible at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/SL/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32014R0651>

Please, use the following expression in the subject of your application e-mail:

- In Hungarian: IMPROVE!_Jelentkezés pilot projektre
- In German: IMPROVE!_ Bewerbung für Pilotprojekt
- In English: IMPROVE!_Application for pilot project

Submitted forms shall be completed in German or Hungarian or English language. Attachments are allowed. Scanned versions of all signed forms must be submitted to the e-mail address: info@pbn.hu AND the relevant regional contact point (see Chapter 10) in copy

List of attachments:

- Application form signed by legal representative
- Declaration by the applicant signed by legal representative
- De minimis declaration signed by legal representative

Dynamic of the open call:

- Deadline for submission of application: 30.04.2021 until 16:00
- Deadline for issuing the selection decision and contracting: 31.05.2021
- Start of the demonstration project: 1.6.2021
- End of the demonstration project and deadline for submission of report: 31.3.2022

7 Evaluation and selection process

7.1.1 Criteria for evaluation of the application

The selection procedure will be conducted by the Project Approval Committee appointed by the responsible person of the open call providers (hereinafter: PAC).

Only the timely submission of applications will be included in the evaluation process.

All timely applications shall be evaluated by the PAC on the basis of the criteria set out in the table below:

CRITERIA		Max. Amount of points	Nr of points scored
1	The applicant participated in project activities in the past e.g. participate in infodays, contacting related to the business cases, direct communication, etc.	Up to 5	
2	The pilot project applies a mixed solution of the eligible activities (YES – 5 points /NO- 0 point)	Up to 5	
3	Pilot project proposal – The project content is descibed in detailed / satisfactory/unrealistic or incomplete	Up to 10	
4	Sustainability and exploitation – The pilot project contributes to the business sustainability of the applicant e.g. new market entrace, new product development, etc.	Up to 10	

7.1.2 Selection process

Evaluation of the applications will start no later than five (5) working days after the deadline for submission of applications.

The PAC may at any time, during the examination of the application, invite the Applicant to deliver **clarifications** in writing (by e-mail) about the information contained in the application. The Applicant must forward clarifications within defined time limit, otherwise the PAC will decide on interpretation of information provide on its own.

The **ten (10) highest ranked** applications will be selected for supporting by the PAC. During the selection process, PAC strives to ensure cross-regionality by selecting at least 2 pilots from each region. If this condition cannot be fulfilled, the decision on the winners will be made solely on the basis of the scores. PAC has the right to extend the list dependant on the available resources. At the same time the PAC sets the next best 5 applications defined as members of the reserve list.

The decision of the PAC on the winning applicants will be **published on the IMPROVE! project website** (<https://www.interreg-athu.eu/hu/improve/>) no later than 25 days after the expiration of the deadline for submission of applications. In addition the winning applicants will be informed by the regional contact point **via e-mail** about the decision of the PAC and Applicants will be called for signing the **Cooperation Agreement**.

In that case if the Applicant **withdraws** from the signature or if the contract is not concluded within defined time limit, the next best scoring application will be approved.

8 Information on financing

Services awarded under this Open Call will be provided by the IMPROVE! partners free of charge based on the Cooperation Agreement. The supported services are non-refundable and count as de minimis aid.

De minimis aid is **regulated** by the Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 and applies to aid granted to undertakings in **all sectors with the exception** of (a) the fishery and aquaculture sector, (b) the primary production of agricultural products, (c) the sector of processing and marketing of agricultural products, (d) aid to export-related activities towards third countries or Member States, namely aid directly linked to the quantities exported, to the establishment and operation of a distribution network or to other current expenditure linked to the export activity (e) aid contingent upon the use of domestic over imported goods.

In case the company belongs to the grounds for exclusion under Art.2 of the Regulation (be considered to be a **single undertaking**) than any de minimis aid may be granted.

The total amount of de minimis aid granted per Member State to a single undertaking shall not exceed **EUR 200 000** over any period of three fiscal years (Art.3. (2)) Applicants have to submit a de minimis **declaration** as part of the Application Form (See Annexes).

The amount of de minimis aid (gross grant equivalent) is **calculated on real-cost basis**. In case of the current Open Call the value of the provided service is 320 engineering hours in Hungary and 200 engineering hours in Austria plus the costs of the needed raw material and/or external services per pilot project in the total value of max.12.000EUR. The exact amount of the de minimis aid is going to be defined during the contracting phase.

At the end of implementation of the pilot project the Beneficiary will receive a »Certificate on de minimis aid« which will include the amount of de minimis aid in gross grant equivalent.

9 Confidentiality

The information contained in the application forms will be treated confidentially , published or redistributed to 3rd parties outside the IMPROVE! project partnership and controlling bodies without the prior written consent of the Applicant.

10 Contact points

HUNGARY

West-Transdanubian Region

Pannon Business Network Association

Contact person: Ms Regina Rosta-Pethő

E-mail to: regina.petho@pbn.hu

Tel: +36 30 968 1445

Homepage: www.pbn.hu

AUSTRIA - Styria

Campus02 University of Applied Sciences

Contact person: Mr Wilfried Wolf

E-mail to: Wilfried.Wolf@campus02.at

Tel: +43 316 6002 154

Homepage: www.campus02.at

AUSTRIA – Vienna

PROFACTOR GmbH

Contact person: Mr Christian Wögerer

E-mail to: christian.woegerer@profactor.at

Tel: +43 (0)664 6207675

Homepage: www.profactor.at

AUSTRIA – Lower Austria

FOTEC Research and Technology Transfer

Contact person: Markus Hohlagschwandtner

E-mail to: hohlagschwandtner@fotec.at

Tel: +43 2622 90333 300

Homepage: www.fotec.at

AUSTRIA – Burgenland

Forschung Burgenland

Contact person: Mr. Thomas Kreamsner

E-mail to: Thomas.Kreamsner@forschung-burgenland.at

Tel: +43 (0) 5 / 7705 - 5468

Homepage: www.forschung-burgenland.at

11 Annexes

Annex1 APPLICATION FORM

APPLICANT DATA	
Full name in English	
Full name in national language	
Short name in English	
Short name in national language	
Tax number	
Registration number	
Address	
Legal representative	
Position	
Phone number	
E-mail address	

CONTACT DATA / CONTACT PERSON	
Name and surname	
Position	
Phone number	
E-mail address	

SIZE OF THE APPLICANT (in accordance with EU regulation 651/2014/EU) – choose one	
<input type="checkbox"/> Micro enterprise	
<input type="checkbox"/> Small enterprise	
<input type="checkbox"/> Medium-sized enterprise	

PARTICIPATION IN OTHER IMPROVE! PROJECT ACTIVITY		
Participating in InfoDay	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>If yes, please specify:</i>
contacting related to the business cases	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>If yes, please specify:</i>
Direct communication with contact points	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>If yes, please specify:</i>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>If yes, please specify:</i>

APPLICANT'S INTRODUCTION (up to 500 characters)

Please provide a brief outline of the company, you may wish to include some of the following: sector, customers, how long the company is established, how many employed, main products and main market(s).

PILOT PROJECT INFORMATION

Pilot project name	
Pilot project acronym	

PROJECT CONTENT – CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS (up to 2000 characters)

Please, describe what specific challenges you are encountering and point out the proposed solution to this challenge or the improvement that you want to implement as part of the proposed pilot project.

Please, tick the selected service(s):



Production	
3D scanning	
3D modeling	
3D printing alloys	
3D printing ink jet	
3D printing polymer	
Prototyping, reverse engineering	
3D animation	
SCADA/MESS	
Product Development by business model canvas	
Engineering	
Topology optimization	
CAD (Computer Added Design)	
Collaborative robotics	
Business model	
Mechatronic Engineering, simulation systems	
Software	
AR – Augmented Reality	
VR system – Assembly Eye	
Cloud – Microsoft Azure	
Payment systems	
Usability testing	
Eye-tracking	
Emotional Analysis	
Digital marketing	
Smart digital service	
Innovation tools, models, integration	
AI/Machine learning	
Customer data analysis processes	
Unique algorithm solutions in data analysis	
Segmentation processes	
Data visualization	
Electronics	
Electronics development	
Industrial measurement technology and measurement automation	
Sensors and actuators	
IoT – Internet of Things	
Mixed solution of the above mentioned services	
<i>(in this case please, tick all services for what you want to apply)</i>	

SUSTAINABILITY AND EXPLOITATION (up to 1000 characters)

Please briefly describe how the result of the pilot project will benefit your company. How do you expect to use the results and how will this benefit contribute to the business sustainability?

Place and date	Stamp	Name and surname of the legal representative
		<div style="text-align: center; background-color: #cccccc; padding: 2px;">Signature</div>



Annex2 DECLARATION BY THE APPLICANT

Legal representative _____ (provide name and surname) of the applicant
 _____ (Provide full name of the applicant) declare that:

- We agree and accept all conditions stated in the open call.
- In case of a successful candidature at the open call, we agree to publishing the information from the application forms and the final report for the purpose of informing the public and other institutions responsible for monitoring the implementation of the IMPROVE! project under the Interreg V-A Austria-Hungary Cooperation Programme 2014-2020.
- The application is prepared in GERMAN / HUNGARIAN / ENGLISH language (*Please, underline the appropriate language*).
- All statements given in this application are true and correspond to the actual situation
- In accordance with Annex I of Regulation 651/2014 / EU, we do not count as a large enterprise
- We are not in equity or in any other way proprietary or management related to the IMPROVE! project partners.
- We apply to this open call with only one application.
- We are aware that we are responsible for achieving the objectives of the pilot project.

Place and date	Stamp	Name and surname of the legal representative
		Signature

Annex3 DE MINIMIS DECLARATION

Name of the applicant in national language:

ATHU118 IMPROVE! project supported in the frame of Interreg V-A Austria-Hungary Program offers services for the selected SMEs.

As legal representative of the above mentioned company which uses (is wishing to use) services offered in the frame of the project

I hereby declare that:

<input type="checkbox"/>	The organisation I represent and all other entities belonging to the same group of interest have not receives any de minimis aid in the last three fiscal years (this means the current and the two previous fiscal years).
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<input type="checkbox"/>	The organisation I represent and all other entities belonging to the same group of interest has received the following <i>de minimis aid in the last three fiscal years (this means the current and the two previous fiscal years)</i> :
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	Supporting organization	Member State	Contact of the supporting organization	ID of the supported project	Amount of subsidy	Date of the supporting decision
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						

I hereby certify that the information contained in the declaration is true and I take full responsibility for it.

Date:

Place:

.....

Signature of the company's authorized representative