



W-Power

W-Power Innovation Platform for Women-Led Businesses



Northern Periphery and
Arctic Programme
2014-2020



EUROPEAN UNION

Investing in your future
European Regional Development Fund



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

Are you a woman in business?

Do you have an innovative business idea, but need help making it happen?

Want to unleash the potential of your business idea but can't get funding?

The W-Power Innovation Platform may be the opportunity for you...

W-Power is an EU funded project supporting women across northern Europe, including in Argyll and the Islands and Dumfries and Galloway, to realise their business ideas and potential.

This autumn W-Power is supporting up to five businesses to develop new projects through its exciting new online innovation platform. The platform is open to business women and teams led by women from around the Arctic fringe.

What's available?

Up to five projects will share the first development fund award of €10,000. This means you could be awarded up to €2,000, possibly more, depending on the nature and scale of your project.

Is my project eligible?

Your idea or project will need to fall into one of three categories:

- A new business or service
- A project to expand your business, including into overseas markets
- A business idea which will help support other women-led businesses

How does the application process work?

1. Submit your idea via our online portal by 10pm on 18 October 2019. We require a short description of the idea with up to four attached documents providing more detail.
2. Ideas will be assessed against the project criteria and shortlisted by our international panel. A maximum of 15 projects will be selected to go through to the second round. Decisions will be made by 25 October 2019.
3. Shortlisted projects will be invited to participate in the online pitching event on 13 November 2019. An online information session with pitching guidance will take place on 4 November 2019.
4. Successful applicants will be notified of their share of the award amount within 48 hours following the pitching event and be invited to join the online kick-off event on 9 December 2019.

Thereafter delivery of the innovation work must be completed by end March 2020.

Application criteria

To be eligible to apply to the W-Power Innovation Platform, your business, your team and your idea must fulfil the following criteria:

1. Be based within the W-Power partner regions of North Karelia and Lapland in Finland; Norbotten in Sweden; Argyll and the Islands, Dumfries and Galloway, Shetland and Orkney in Scotland; the counties of Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Donegal and Leitrim in the Republic of Ireland; or Iceland.
2. Teams must comprise between one and five people, and must be led by a woman.
3. The team lead as a minimum must live and/or work in one of the qualifying geographical areas.
4. Only original ideas which do not infringe existing Intellectual Property will be accepted.
5. Applicants must be prepared to participate in the online pitching event on 13 November 2019 at which the successful businesses will be identified, and available for the online kick-off meeting on 9 December 2019.
6. Successful applicants must agree to W-Power publicising their involvement in the Innovation Platform.
7. Applications and online pitching must be in English, which is the official language of the project.
8. Successful teams must be available to report back on the delivery of their project / idea at an online meeting in March 2020, and to deliver a final project presentation in June 2020.

Other key information

All proprietary information shared will be kept confidential.

Payment of the amount awarded will be either:

1. As a lump sum in arrears on completion of the project, once evidence has been provided of the work undertaken and outputs created.
2. Against invoices for relevant goods and services procured to deliver the agreed work and outputs, in which case funding will be released gradually from December onwards on an invoice-by-invoice basis up to the agreed limit of the award.

In addition to the funding award, successful individuals/teams will benefit from support and guidance from the W-Power project partners.

The decision of the International Selection Panel is final.

International Selection Panel

- Karelia University of Applied Sciences, Finland
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scotland
- Strukturum, Sweden
- Innovation and Management Centre CLG T/A WestBic, Ireland
- Business Joensuu Oy, Finland
- Lapland University of Applied Sciences, Finland
- Pure Energy Centre, Shetland
- Selected SME representatives



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For more information visit the
w-power website [click here](#)

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