

Circular Economy: Call for Expression of Interest (Eoi) for Private Sector Partnerships

You are a Rwanda-based company – or a company aspiring to expand to Rwanda – with an investment plan that will create jobs in the circular economy? Submit a project concept by 11.07.2022 to benefit from reaching a new market, new sourcing channels or better qualified staff. Successful applicants will be asked to submit a more detailed project proposal after this call for expression of interests.

In Rwanda, the Special Initiative on Training and Job Creation – known under the brand Invest for Jobs – promotes job creation and economic growth by promoting investment and training small and medium-sized enterprises (SME). As one of several implementing organisations, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH works together with European and African companies to create jobs, improve working conditions, and promote economic growth in Rwanda. Private partners are expected to benefit from the partnership by reaching a new market, new sourcing channels, or better qualified staff.

The main goal and priority of Invest for Jobs is to create over 5,000 good jobs in Rwanda, including 50% women and 40% young people under 35 years. Employment is considered “good” when the following minimum criteria are fulfilled:

- a) Employees work for at least 20h per week over a duration of at least 26 weeks per calendar year;
- b) Adequate financial remuneration, but at least 42,000 RWF/month;
- c) Adherence to the International Labor Organization’s core criteria and labour standards (no child labour, no forced labour, no discrimination, right to associate) are met.

For people who are already employed, Invest for Jobs seeks to achieve an increase in salary or improve working conditions in at least one of the following categories:

- a) Access to human resources development programmes (e.g. training, career development, vocational guidance, other qualification);
- b) Improved safety at the workplace (occupational health & safety);
- c) Improved social security (e.g. occupational pension, health insurance, etc.);
- d) Access to the company's employee welfare programs (e.g. health programs, childcare, adapted working time arrangements, employee loans, etc.).

Context of the Circular Economy in Rwanda

The circular economy (CE) aims at the continuous use of resources: through reuse, sharing, repair, refurbishment, remanufacturing, and recycling. This enables a closed-loop system and minimises inputs of resources, waste, pollution, and carbon emissions. Products, equipment, and infrastructure remain in use longer. Productivity of resources improves. Waste and energy become inputs for processes: either as a recycled resource for another industrial process or as regenerative resources

Implemented by

for nature (e.g. compost). This stands in contrast to the traditional linear economy, which follows a take-make-dispose-model. Yet, CE business models are more than just waste management and recycling: they can unlock potential for sustainable economic growth.

In order to support the circular economy in Rwanda, Invest for Jobs seeks Expressions of Interest from private companies for the following types of projects:

Option 1: Apply with your own project idea – if your company is active in the field of circular economy or if an area of your business can be restructured to comply with the principles of circular economy, you can apply with your own project idea.

⇒ **All bidders following Option 1 must submit:**

- **a detailed concept note and summary business plan (Annex 1); a detailed, Excel-based, financial proposal (Annex 3);**
- **a project implementation plan (GANNT Chart; Annex 4).**

This option is open to individual companies and to groups / consortia of companies. In case you apply as a consortium, please include profiles of all companies and their business models in the template (Annex 1) and explain the steering structure between the companies.

Option 2: Apply to implement one of the pre-defined project ideas and business plans presented in Annex 5.

⇒ **All bidders following Option 2 must submit:**

- **a detailed concept note and summary business plan (Annex 1);**
- **a detailed, Excel-based, financial proposal (Annex 3);**
- **a project implementation plan (GANNT Chart; Annex 4).**

Option 3: Apply for trainings in circular economy topics.

If you don't have an idea for a complete CE project, you can also apply for capacity building / training support in CE topics for staff at your company. In this case, you are encouraged to apply as part of a group / consortium of companies with similar needs for trainings and/or technical expertise/support in CE topics. Write a proposal on the training needs and show how – through this support – jobs will be created at the participating companies.

⇒ **All bidders following Option 3 must submit:**

- **a detailed concept note (Annex 2);**
- **a detailed, Excel-based, financial proposal (Annex 3);**
- **a training / capacity building plan (GANNT Chart; Annex 4).**

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Bidders are asked to complete all documents / templates listed above, for the respective option. Proposals that are missing documents will not be considered in the assessment process.

Only use one set of documents, depending on the type of your application - as outlined above for the respective option you wish to apply for.

The financial proposal must be completed as per the Excel template provided in Annex 3. The total GIZ contribution within the budget should not exceed 200,000 EUR, or the equivalent in RWF, per applicant.

Please note that the earliest project start should be September 2022. The latest project end date should be December 2023. This is especially relevant when designing the GANTT chart (Annex 4).

Framework and Requirements for the application (expression of interest):

Minimum eligibility criteria:

Proposals and companies need to fulfil the following minimum criteria to be eligible:

- Only projects that will create new “good” employment will be considered (good jobs as per the definition above). As a benchmark, each job should not cost more than 1,500 EUR (or the equivalent in RWF / USD, etc.) in project funds (total project budget divided by the number of jobs created through the measure). Project proposals that create jobs at a unit cost higher than 1,500 EUR per job created will either not be considered or lose points during the assessment.
- The proposal needs to describe the jobs to be created in detail, e.g. how many jobs will be created? What are the conditions of these jobs in terms of e.g. duration of employment; type of employment; conditions of employment, etc.;
- Projects need to be affiliated with the field of circular economy: only companies active in the area of circular economy or companies that want to align areas of their business operations with the principles of circular economy. Ideas for projects outside the circular economy will not be considered under this call and will be rejected as illegible.
- Project proposals cannot solely promote the core business of the applying company but need to have a public benefit component (e.g. training for a group of people of whom some will start employment at the company and some at other companies, including a job placement strategy for the ones who will not be employed at the applying company).
- The business must be officially registered as such in Rwanda.
- Financial statements for at least two years will have to be presented as part of the continued assessment process.

Project proposals that do not meet the above-mentioned minimum eligibility criteria, will not be considered in the assessment process.

Please note that GIZ cannot provide support for capital expenditures (CAPEX) (materials / equipment) for goods exceeding 1,500 EUR (unit cost), but limits its support to the following categories:

- Expert fees for personnel (internal and external) tasked with project implementation
- Project operating costs
- Travel costs related to the project

Please note that GIZ also does not cover salary payments for personnel of the company, unless this personnel is part of the project implementation team, in which case it can be co-funded under expert fees.

Questions in relation to this call for Expression of Interest can be asked via email to rwanda@invest-for-jobs.com until 05 July 2022 at 5 pm CAT at the latest.

Additionally, interested applicants can ask questions as part of a webinar taking place on 06 July 2022 at 12:00 noon CAT. If you are interested in participating in this webinar, please request the meeting link via rwanda@invest-for-jobs.com.

Potential applicants will have until 11 July 2022 at 5 pm CAT, to submit their Expressions of Interest. Companies are invited to submit high quality proposals either as a consortium or individual entity.

Eligible project concepts shall be submitted to the GIZ Rwanda country office (17 KN 41 St, Kigali, Rwanda) via hardcopies or softcopies saved on flash disks or sent via email to rwanda@invest-for-jobs.com not later than 11 July 2022 at 5 PM CAT.

Please note that this Expression of Interest is executed by GIZ and not to be confused with the Call for Proposals of the Facility Investing for Employment / KfW currently running.

Applicants with suitable project concepts will be shortlisted and invited for a project presentation meeting by GIZ, either virtually, through an MS Teams call, or in person in the project office in Kigali.

Successful bidders will then be invited to prepare and submit a more detailed project proposal.

Annex 1: Template for Concept Note and Summary Business Plan

Annex 2: Template for Concept – Training/Support Needs

Annex 3: EXCEL-based Financial Proposal (Budget) Template

Annex 4: GANTT Chart

Annex 5: Summary of pre-defined CE project ideas and business plans *(only relevant for bidders following Option 2)*.

For general questions concerning Invest for Jobs you can contact: info@invest-for-jobs.com

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