

## Features of business projects within the Emerging Ideas

### ECOSISTER sub-category

Ecosystem for Sustainable Transition in Emilia-Romagna (in short ECOSISTER) is a 36-month project funded under the NRRP, which seeks to improve the global positioning of Emilia-Romagna's industrial sector. The project aims to create an even more effective, integrated and sustainable technology transfer system for the Region, in line with international best practice, also based on new actions and solutions tested during the three-year period and then made permanent at the end of the project.

In line with the former academic year, **Call for StartUps 2024-2025** will contribute to this goal through the **Call for StartUps & ECOSISTER integrated path** and a dedicated sub-category within Emerging Ideas.

The **business ideas** presented within the **Emerging Ideas – ECOSISTER sub-category** must meet certain requirements and focus on certain themes.

The Emerging Ideas presented within the ECOSISTER sub-category must fall within one of the thematic areas indicated in section 1 and meet at least one of the requirements indicated in section 2.

### 1. THEMATIC AREAS

Applicants who present their business projects within the ECOSISTER sub-category must select one of the following six thematic areas in the form. For each thematic area, please find below a list of examples for illustrative purposes only:

#### 1. Climate change mitigation;

- Systems or services aimed at the reduction of GHG emissions;
- Sustainable mobility systems for people and/or goods (technological innovation, shared mobility, etc.);
- Renewable energy production;
- Materials for zero impact buildings;
- Development of production chains and supply systems with low energy and environmental impact\*;
- Urban decarbonisation systems\*;
- Systems for capture, sequestration, purification and use of CO<sub>2</sub>;

- Systems or services to reduce waste or incentivise reuse\*.

## 2. Climate change adaptation;

- Projects to develop new and climate resilient agricultural production methods;
- Systems or substances to improve the functions of soils;
- Land vulnerability measurement systems, on which to base adaptation actions;
- Rainwater collection systems\*.

## 3. Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources;

- Bio-solutions to increase crop yields while saving water resources;
- Rainwater collection systems\*;
- Reduction of ocean acidification effects;
- Marine waste collection systems;
- Impact analysis, reduction and compensation strategies for companies to support of marine ecosystems;
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- HPC simulation for sustainable water management;
- Development of technologies for regeneration and development of thermal, maritime and coastal tourism systems.

## 4. Transition to a circular economy;

- Systems or services to reduce waste or incentivise reuse\*:
- Recovery of phosphorous from wastewater and reuse in fertilisers;
- Quantification of the level of product and process “circularity” on which to base improvement actions;
- Projects based on waste valorisation and transformation into new materials/products;
- Projects based on the acceptance, take-back and reprocessing of used products.

## 5. Pollution prevention and control;

- Technologies and systems for energy transport, distribution and storage;
- Battery life extender technology;
- Sustainable mobility systems\*;
- New waste management systems;
- Production of ecological packaging;
- Development of production chains and supply systems with low energy and environmental impact\*;
- Systems to improve indoor/outdoor air quality and comfort;
- Urban decarbonisation systems\*;
- Improvement of heating system efficiency.

## 6. Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

- Projects for degraded land restoration, e.g. areas affected by desertification, drought and flooding;
- Projects to create wooded buffer strips and establish ecological corridors in agricultural settings;

- Urban and peri-urban forestation projects;
- Projects for invasive species control;
- Projects for the protection of flora or fauna species of EU interest.

*\* As illustrated in these examples, some projects can fall within more than one thematic area. Applicants are free to choose the one they deem the most relevant.*

The above thematic areas correspond to the **environmental objectives** laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852. All Emerging Ideas submitted in the ECOSISTER sub-category must contribute to achieving them.

## 2. REQUIREMENTS

In addition, all the business ideas submitted within the ECOSISTER sub-category must **meet at least one of the following requirements**:

1. Propose innovative products/services;
2. Use new technologies;
3. Be based on high-profile knowledge;
4. Adopt innovative organisational and/or market solutions.

The Evaluation Committees will be responsible for making sure that each project matches the sub-category indicated by the applicant in the application. A project submitted within “Emerging Ideas – ECOSISTER” can be attributed to a different sub-category (without penalty in the evaluation), if the Committee considers that it fails to meet the relevant requirements. Likewise, a project submitted within a different sub-category can be attributed to the ECOSISTER sub-category, if it meets the relevant requirements.