Remote Auditing Good Practices: Pilot opportunities!

Supporting ISEAL members and collaboration partners to pilot solutions to remote audit challenges

What's on offer?

Funding worth up to EUR 15,000 each for short-term pilots with completion by May 2021.

ISEAL, along with funding partners, the Sustainable Trade Initiative IDH and Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO, want to support testing of remote auditing solutions that help us better understand how to design assurance systems for the future. ISEAL will support solutions with the potential for wide applicability across the sustainability community, with aspirations to make assurance systems more efficient while also strengthening the reliability, consistency and credibility of remote verification mechanisms. We are open to all ideas and particularly welcome pilot testing in the following areas:

- **Worker Interviews** – Solutions that test feasibility and limits of worker interviews in different contexts using combinations of technology and new processes. Particularly relevant for auditing against socio-economic requirements, human rights, livelihoods, health and safety, and more.

- **Unlocking data value to support remote auditing and risk detection processes** – Any project proposal aimed at maximizing use of data to support processes in this space welcome. For example: Data sharing between schemes to align on audit protocols and safety aspects of auditing; generating value back to certified entities; collaborations between standard setters and certification bodies using combined data for joint decision making; using new sources of data, such as external risk indices, to aid in decision making; and more.

- **Hybrid audits** – Testing the limits and opportunities of hybrid auditing. What are the strengths, weaknesses, and gaps that cannot be solved? Could include assessing quality of outputs, oversight processes, opinions of people or organizations involved. Could also include research, such as comparative studies between previous on-site audits and current hybrid audits, to understand effectiveness of new approaches.

What are the expectations of pilot outcomes?

We expect that the learnings from these pilots, including both challenges and successes, will support the development of new ISEAL 'Good Practice Protocols for Integrating Remote Auditing Practices' to be completed by June 2021.

To achieve this, grant recipients will be expected to work in collaboration with ISEAL, be an active participant in the remote auditing project group throughout the duration of the pilot, and be willing to contribute experience and input to the Good practice protocol development.

What is the application process?

Grant recipients and project leads for this opportunity have to be ISEAL Community Members. However, we do strongly encourage collaborative initiatives, for instance between a member and a certification body.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact: Robert@isealliance.org by 15th Jan, 2021 to discuss your project and learn more about this opportunity. Projects should be feasible to implement between Feb. and May, 2021.

You will be asked to complete and submit a short proposal template to ISEAL by 29th Jan, 2021. ISEAL will make final decisions shortly thereafter on which projects to award grants to.

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