Call for expressions of interest
ISEAL Innovations Fund
June 2021

The ISEAL Innovations Fund is supported by:

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO
Dear Community Member,

In 2016, we embarked on a quest to identify and fund the most innovative project ideas that would be valuable to the whole community of sustainability standards.

In five years, we have built a portfolio of more than 40 projects and we’re working to extract and share the wealth of learning generated. We’re also exploring options for the future of this valuable funding mechanism.

We’re excited to call for expressions of interest to allocate the remaining resources in our Innovations Fund. Please read on for more details on eligibility and how to apply.
Eligibility

**Grant amount.** From CHF 35,000 to CHF 75,000, with equal (1:1) match funding.

**Duration.** Projects must end by 30 June 2022. They can start as early as September 2021, depending on project design and contracting.

**Lead organisation.** Must be an ISEAL Community Member.

**Guiding Principles.** Projects must be guided by the fund’s principles.

**Outputs.** Must be publicly available on a Creative Commons license.
Priority areas

The ISEAL Innovations Programme fosters a culture of innovation to help sustainability systems scale their impact without compromising on credibility. We have seen ISEAL members undergo serious transformation in recent years, embracing technology, stepping out of comfort zones, and forging new and important partnerships. The investment is paying off, but significant challenges remain. This last call for proposals will prioritise projects that can help sustainability systems to address one or more of the following:

- Conduct remote or hybrid auditing, particularly for application to social issues, e.g. by testing new data collection tools or approaches (related work)
- Operationalise risk-based approaches to assurance, e.g. by combining different sources of data (related work)
- Standardise data management and governance, potentially aligning to the IDSS (related work)
- Support the finance sector to incentivise improved sustainability performance (related work)
- Improve measurement of sustainability performance and cross system alignment (related work)
- Be more effective in identifying and responding to human rights violations, e.g. by exploring access to remedy options (related work)
- Influence broader systemic conditions in a geography or sector, e.g. by forging partnerships to tackle smallholders’ resilience and adaptation to climate change (related work)
- Position themselves as more effective tools in due diligence processes
How to apply

Please submit your expression of interest to fund@isealalliance.org by 9 July 2021.

We don’t require a detailed proposal at this stage, just a one pager that explains:

• the challenge you’re seeking to address
• what makes your approach different to others
• how you could scale this solution
• the learning value for ISEAL members.

Please download the application template from the fund’s webpage.
Selection process

ISEAL staff will review your expression of interest, and we may contact you for additional information.

The fund will work closely with SECO to make funding offers by the end of July, with the condition that successful candidates will further refine the project design with ISEAL before contract.

Due to the grant amounts and timelines, we envisage light touch due diligence checks as part of the contracting process. The grant agreement template will be available from our webpage later this month.
Contact us

fund@isealalliance.org
www.iseal.org/fund