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Project acronym: **RESIST**

Project full title: **REsilience through Sustainable processes and production for the European automotive InduSTry**

## **Call for Expression of Interest for Service Providers**

"Pool for Experts for SMEs from the Mobility-Transport-Automotive (MTA) and the related manufacturing ecosystem for the green and digital transition"

<b>Project funded by the European Commission within Horizon Europe programme</b>		
<b>Dissemination level</b>		
<b>PU</b>	Public – fully open (automatically posted online on the Project Results platforms)	X
<b>SEN</b>	Sensitive – limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement	
<b>EU classified</b>	EU-RESTRICTED, EU-CONFIDENTIAL, EU-SECRET under Decision 2015/444	



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## 1. Introduction

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The objective of the RESIST project is to support the SMEs of the Mobility-Transport-Automotive (MTA) and the related manufacturing ecosystem in their green and digital transition process, as well as to increase their level of resilience in the face of upcoming challenges.

Within RESIST project, coaching and mentoring Services (CMS) shall be delivered to SMEs from the MTA ecosystem in the form of Assessment and/or feasibility service, provided by experts.

RESIST project provides financial support to those SMEs who implement such an Assessment/feasibility service with an service providing expert. This means that the service provider is not financed directly by the RESIST project, but indirectly through the SME.

## 2. Aim of the call

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This call is addressed to **experts in the field of digitalization and/or green transformation** who have experience in supporting SMEs in the mobility-transport-automotive (MTA) sector and the related production ecosystem. The pool of experts in the field of digitalization and/or green transformation will be established for SMEs, to select the appropriate expert for their situation and challenges.

The experts should enable SMEs to identify their potential and support them in implementing the necessary measures to take advantage of opportunities in the areas of digitalization, green economy and sustainability. In this context, the experts are not directly eligible for funding, but rather the companies that use their services in each case. They can apply for this funding via the Open Call for coaching and mentoring services (CMS).

## 3. Participating service providers

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Companies and entities, including training and education institutions and consultants, etc. (further named “service providers”), within or outside the MTA ecosystem that provide Assessment and feasibility services related to green or digital transition topics (see 6. Services) may express their interest.

The service providers that are interested must be a legal entity based in any EU Member State.

There is no limit to the company size. All interested service providers must comply with all of the following rules:

- The service providers has not been declared bankrupt or have initiated bankruptcy procedures.

- The service provider has no convictions for fraudulent behavior, other financial irregularities, unethical or illegal business practices.
- The service provider is not under liquidation or an enterprise under difficulty according to the Commission Regulation No 651/2014 art. 2.18.

The interested service providers must have been in business for at least two years and should be able to communicate indicators proving the quality of their work upon individual request from any partner of the RESIST project (see 8. Validation by the RESIST Consortium). It is highly recommended that the organizations have previous experience in working with clients from the Mobility-Transport-Automotive (MTA) industry.

#### 4. Conditions and specifications of the Open Call:

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- Participants can apply to the pool of experts in this Open Call individually
- Participants have to be experienced in supporting SMEs in the MTA ecosystem
- The Pool of Experts will be published on the RESIST website and related EU websites

#### **Benefits for service providers participating in this call:**

SMEs shall contract a service provider from the pool of experts to receive funding in the form of Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP).

#### **Details of the FSTP service:**

Two types of FSTP are offered in the frame of the Call for coaching and mentoring services (CMS) to SME:

- a. Assessment FSTP
- b. Feasibility FSTP

#### **ad a.**

The Assessment FSTP consists of a one-time support in the form of specific high-level expert consulting on a specific topic related to the SME's digital and/or green transformation. The FSTP covers 4-5 sessions with experts and the expected outcome is a documented report answering the specific topic. The maximum duration of Assessments is 3 months.

Eligible SMEs receive an FSTP of maximum 4.000 € or 75% of the expert's bill for CMS Assessment services. The RESIST consortium offers in total 25 Assessment FSTPs.

Be aware that this Assessment is not equal to a mandatory Assessment related to a regulation, norm or standard.

## ad b.

Feasibility FSTP provide support for theoretical, lab-environment study on feasibility of implementation of a new technology, new materials, or a new approach related to the SME's services, products, manufacturing processes, or business models towards digital and sustainable transition. Market studies for international markets or new markets for SMEs are also covered by the CMS Feasibility FSTP. The outcome of this FSTP will be, e.g., practical roadmaps, feasibility studies with technical specifications, new digitalized business models, other plans and arrangements for digital transformation, or market studies.

The maximum duration of the feasibility service is 6 months. Eligible SMEs receive a financial support of maximum of 7.500 € or 75% of the expert's bill for CMS Feasibility services.

The RESIST consortium offers in total 12 Feasibility FSTP.

CMS can be conducted in any language the SME and the expert agree on. Individual Assessments and feasibility studies must be documented by the experts and the respective supported company in form of an English publishable summary (2-4 pages) that is one mandatory condition for the payment of the financial support.

## 5. Application period

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The RESIST Open Call for the Green and Digital Transformation Expert Pool opens at the 9th of May 2023 and remains open until the end of October 2024.

## 6. Services

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The following services can be provided to the SMEs from the MTA ecosystem under the RESIST project.

The list is not exhaustive. Other services can be provided if they serve the objective of the up- and re-skilling of the workforce, digitalisation of companies, improving sustainability, increasing resilience, and supporting internationalisation.

### **Services for the digital transition:**

Any form of service that covers digital technologies, including:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Augmented reality
- Big Data
- Cloud computing/technologies
- Cybersecurity
- Digital platforms
- Internet of Things
- Monitoring systems and traceability
- Online marketing
- Online collaboration

- Robotics
- Specialised (design) software
- Virtual reality

**Services for the green transition:**

Any form of service that covers green transition topics, including:

- Carbon footprint and emission of greenhouse gasses
- Circularity
- Eco-design
- Energy reduction
- Green construction
- Recycling
- Resource efficiency
- Circular Social Responsibility (CSR)

## 7. How to express interest

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RESIST offers an online platform for interested service providers to submit their applications, which is available under the link [www.clustersubmissionplatform.eu](http://www.clustersubmissionplatform.eu)

Interested service provider create an account to access the platform and to submit their expression of interest.

**Step 1: Create an account**

Please create an account by following the registration steps.

<https://clustersubmissionplatform.eu/registration/>

**Step 2: Fill in the online form**

Select the RESIST open call for expression of interest for service providers, log in, and start filling in the online form with your details. Please note that you cannot save and exit a started form.

In order to apply for this call for expression of interest, you will need to fill in the EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (download the editable file) and upload it in STEP 3. Please sign this document with a validated DIGITAL SIGNATURE or, alternatively, with a written signature with attached ID of signer. Validation from the consortium cannot happen if the document is not submitted.

The submission language is English.

**Step 3: Submit your expression of interest**

As soon as you have filled in all the fields and uploaded the Expression of interest, please click on “submit”. You will receive a confirmation email if your expression of interest was submitted correctly.

## 8. Validation by the RESIST consortium

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The RESIST PPs will review and validate the submitted expression of interests on a regular basis, successful applications will be published.

## 9. Data - GDPR

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In order to process the expression of interest, RESIST needs to collect personal and company data. All expressions of interest are submitted via the provided online platform. Its design and operational procedures ensure that data is managed in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR).

All service provider will be requested to make at least the following information available in the online platform:

- Name and address of the company or entity
- Mail and phone number of the company or entity
- Description of the company or entity
- Website of company or entity
- Description of the service provided
- Country/ies where the service is offered

If selected as service provider by an SME for conducting an Assessment or feasibility service under the Call for CMS (Coaching and Mentoring Service) in the framework of RESIST project, note that the awarded SMEs beneficiary will receive the contact details of the expert who carries out the Assessment/feasibility service:

- Name of the contact person
- Telephone number and Email of the contact person

With submitting the application in reaction to this Call for Expression of Interest, the service provider accepts the treatment of its data as described above.