

## HOST ENTREPRENEURS



### ***Eligibility criteria***

#### **Host entrepreneur definition**

Host entrepreneurs are successful and experienced entrepreneurs (ideally owners of a micro or small enterprise) or individuals directly involved in entrepreneurship at SME board level, applying the EU definition of micro, small or medium-sized enterprise, with more than 3 years entrepreneurial experience (not employee).

Host entrepreneurs want to share their entrepreneurial experience and to benefit from the concrete contribution that a New Entrepreneur (NE) from another country will make to their business. Host entrepreneurs must be committed to work personally with the NE towards developing his/her entrepreneurial skills and know-how.

There is no minimum or maximum age for participating in the programme.

#### **SME definition<sup>1</sup>**

The European Commission Communication defines SMEs as follows: *“An enterprise is any entity engaged in an economic activity, irrespective of its legal form”. “Enterprises qualify as micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) if they fulfil the criteria laid down in the Recommendation which are summarized in the table below. In addition to the staff headcount ceiling, an enterprise qualifies as an SME if it meets either the turnover ceiling or the balance sheet ceiling, but not necessarily both.*

Enterprise category	Head count	Turnover	or	Balance sheet total
medium-sized	< 250	≤ € 50 million		≤ € 43 million
small	< 50	≤ € 10 million		≤ € 10 million
micro	< 10	≤ € 2 million		≤ € 2 million

#### **Geographical criterion**

Entrepreneurs must have their **‘permanent residence’** in an EU Member State or in any of the other participating countries to participate in the programme.

**‘Permanent residence’** is defined as:

- The place where the applicant's company is registered, if the applicant has a registered company;
- If a company has several establishments in different EU Member States or other participating countries (Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of

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<sup>1</sup> Following application could be used to assess this criterion <http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/SME-Wizard/smeq.do>

Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro, Moldova, Serbia, Turkey, and Ukraine) the entrepreneur should choose the country where he/she is based;

Furthermore, host entrepreneurs who are currently residing in a different country from the country where their company is registered are not eligible to participate in the programme. Similarly, new entrepreneurs cannot have an exchange in the country where they are currently living, even if they have spent less than 6 months in that country.