



European Social Fund+ (ESF) Social Prerogatives and Specific Competencies Lines (SocPL)

Application Form

**Administrative Forms (Part A)
Technical Description (Part B)**

(ESF and SOCPL Standard)

**Version 1.0
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Disclaimer

This document is aimed at informing applicants for EU funding. It serves only as an example. The actual web forms and templates are provided in the Funding & Tenders Portal Submission System (and may contain certain differences). The applications (including annexes and supporting documents) must be prepared and submitted online via the Portal.





IMPORTANT NOTICE

What is the Application Form?

The Application Form is the template for EU grants applications; it must be submitted via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal before the call deadline.

The Form consists of 2 parts:.

- Part A contains structured administrative information
- Part B is a narrative technical description of the project.

Part A is generated by the IT system. It is based on the information which you enter into the Portal Submission System screens.

Part B needs to be uploaded as PDF (+ Annexes) in the Submission System. The templates to use are available there.

How to prepare and submit it?

The Application Form must be prepared by the consortium and submitted by a representative. Once submitted, you will receive a confirmation.

Character and page limits:

- page limit normally **70** pages (unless otherwise provided in the Call document)
- supporting documents can be provided as an annex and do not count towards the page limit
- minimum font size — Arial 9 points
- page size: A4
- margins (top, bottom, left and right): at least 15 mm (not including headers & footers).

Please abide by the formatting rules. They are NOT a target! Keep your text as concise as possible. Do not use hyperlinks to show information that is an essential part of your application.



If you attempt to upload an application that exceeds the specified limit, you will receive an automatic warning asking you to shorten and re-upload your application. For applications that are not shortened, the excess pages will be made invisible and thus disregarded by the evaluators.



Please do NOT delete any instructions in the document. The overall page limit has been raised to ensure equal treatment of all applicants.



ADMINISTRATIVE FORMS (PART A)

Part A of the Application Form must be filled out directly in the Portal Submission System screens.

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION (PART B)****COVER PAGE**

Part B of the Application Form must be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded as PDF in the system.

Note: Please read carefully the conditions set out in the Call document (for open calls: published on the Portal). Pay particular attention to the award criteria; they explain how the application will be evaluated.

PROJECT	
Project name:	[SCAFFOLD]
Project acronym:	[Improving Training, Working Conditions, and Transformation in the European Scaffolding Sector]
Coordinator contact:	[Rolf GEHRING], [European Federation of Building and Woodworkers]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ADMINISTRATIVE FORMS (PART A)	3
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION (PART B)	4
COVER PAGE	4
PROJECT SUMMARY	5
1. RELEVANCE	5
1.1 Background and general objectives	5
1.2 Needs analysis and specific objectives	5
1.3 Complementarity with other actions and innovation — European added value	6
2. QUALITY	7
2.1 Concept and methodology	7
2.2 Consortium set-up	8
2.3 Project teams, staff and experts	9
2.4 Consortium management and decision-making mechanisms	12
2.5 Project management, quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation strategy	13
2.6 Cost effectiveness and financial management	13
2.7 Risk management	14
3. IMPACT	15
3.1 Impact and ambition	15
3.2 Communication, dissemination and visibility	17
3.3 Sustainability and continuation	17
4. ACTIVITIES, WORK PACKAGES, TIMING AND SUBCONTRACTING	19
4.1 Activities and work packages	19
Work Package 1	19
Work Package	22
Lump sum breakdown	Error! Bookmark not defined.
4.2 Timetable	48
4.3 Subcontracting	51
5. OTHER	54
5.1 Ethics	54



5.2 Security.....	54
6. DECLARATIONS.....	54
ANNEXES.....	55

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project summary

See Abstract (Application Form Part A).

1. RELEVANCE

1.1 Background and general objectives

Background and general objectives

Describe the background and rationale of the project.

How is the project relevant to the scope of the call? How does the project address the general objectives of the call? What is the project's contribution to the priorities of the call?

The Scaffolding sector is a special branch in the construction industry. Traditionally, scaffolding work is characterized by arduous working conditions and proportionally high rates of accidents and fatal accidents. Scaffolders normally do not reach their pension age without occupational diseases forcing them to resign from their profession. Ergonomics of scaffolding material is often still not appropriate and the same goes for related standards. These specific aspects of the sector have also negative effects on the overall working conditions and forms of employment. The named conditions also create hurdles for women to enter into the scaffolding sector.

Another aspect of scaffolding work in Europe is the wide range of qualification systems that exist. In some countries, there is no special vocational education for scaffolding workers. In others, it is a full apprenticeship and even a master degree has been established (Germany). This situation also creates differences and has an effect on the European market. On the other hand, we have a number of scaffold producers who supply scaffolds all over Europe. This results in a kind of harmonisation of working conditions and needed skills. The anticipation and discussion of product developments, the evaluation of skills needs and the option of a European OSH Training Certificate meet a number of EU policies. The project meets especially the European Pillar of Social Rights. It relates to skills needs (European Skills Agenda) and it has strong relations to the EU Strategic Framework on Occupational Safety and Health. When dealing with innovation and robotisation, the project furthermore contributes to a Just Transition and Digitalisation Strategy.

The European Pillar of Social Rights also emphasises the importance of social dialogue in the light of changes caused by various drivers. Therefore, with our proposal and its specific objectives, we aim at focusing on challenges and opportunities to keep building a system of properly functioning industrial relations in the scaffolding sector. The project specifically aims at strengthening, reinforcing and promoting industrial relations in the scaffolding sector at European and national levels. Having Constructiv, a Belgian paritarian Fund that is responsible for the scaffolding sector and the Dutch employer federation VSB (Vereniging van Steiger-, Hoogwerk- en Betonbekistingbedrijven) involved as partners in the project will facilitate to foster Social Dialogue structures in the participating countries and elsewhere in Europe.

1.2 Needs analysis and specific objectives

Needs analysis and specific objectives

Describe how the objectives of the project are based on a sound needs analysis in line with the specific objectives of the call. What issue/challenge/gap does the project aim to address?

The objectives should be clear, measurable, realistic and achievable within the duration of the project. For each



objective, define appropriate indicators for measuring achievement (including a unit of measurement, baseline value and target value).

The construction sector in general, but also the scaffolding sector, undergoes impacting changes based on an internal open market and the free movement of workers. The impact concerns the overall working conditions and forms of employment. Some of these tendencies have a measurable negative impact. Bogus self-employment or the activities of letter box companies undermine working conditions in general. More specifically, bogus self-employment often excludes workers from health and safety services or from OSH training. In consequence, working conditions are less safe, resulting in higher accident rates. Furthermore, the landscape of the European vocational education/training structures for the training of scaffolders results in a kind of fragmented workforce and differing working conditions and, by this, undermines a level playing field for economic activities. A proper analysis of these changes and the actual situation is needed to formulate proper policy concepts for various areas which the EU is legally responsible for or is active in a more coordinating function, namely working conditions, occupational safety and health, standardisation or skills needs and vocational education.

More specific objectives of the action are the publication of a research report that shall provide information about the overall economic situation of the sector, the working conditions in the sector with some focus on occupational hazards, the training systems in the participating countries and in Europe, more specifically the OSH training, the changes in the technical composition of scaffolds and used tools and the related standardisation work, but also regarding digitisation and robotisation in scaffolding activities and later the use of scaffolding.

Possible perspectives of gender equality will be discussed in general, but especially in connection with technological innovation and possible changes in the work organisation of scaffolding work.

After having compiled the research report and based on the insight this report provides, we aim at preparing Policy Recommendations for the various fields that shall serve for improved discussions between the social partners of the sector. One more ambitious and focused objective is the assessment of the preconditions and the feasibility of the establishment of a European OSH Certificate for Scaffolders. To achieve this the next objective is the preparation and running of topical workshops. The employer side shall be involved from the beginning and for the various workshops, our objective is to also involve the expertise from other stakeholders.

Another objective, based on the workshops' outcome, is to reformulate the policy recommendations and use this reformulated version as a basis for follow up activities in the various levels of social dialogue. We aim to establish more regular cooperation on European level and aim to support the establishment of relations at national levels, in countries where no such a social dialogue exist and to foster the structures in those countries where it exist.

Regarding project deliverables, our objective is the publication of the Research Report in English and the publication of the Policy Recommendations in various languages.

1.3 Complementarity with other actions and innovation - European added value

Complementarity with other actions and innovation

Explain how the project builds on the results of past activities carried out in the field and describe its innovative aspects. Explain how the activities are complementary to other activities carried out by other organisations.

Illustrate the European dimension of the activities: trans-national dimension of the project; impact/interest for a number of EU countries; possibility to use the results in other countries, potential to develop mutual trust/cross-border cooperation among EU countries, etc.

Which countries will benefit from the project (directly and indirectly)? Where will the activities take place?

The proposed project application is complementary to the EFBWW/FIEC social dialogue work programme 2020 – 2024. Its goal to foster Social Dialogue structures in the scaffolding sector can contribute to the overall development of industrial relations in the European construction sector.

The proposal aims to contribute to the promotion of social dialogue at cross-industry and sectoral level, developing European social dialogue. With the concept and methodology, we also aim directly at fostering the sectoral social dialogue at national levels, and especially the capacities of social partners in CEE countries. The call for proposals stresses the emphasis on social partners' involvement in the EU policy, further developing the membership of social partner organisations and reinforcing capacity of national social partners to engage in and contribute to European social dialogue that would be covered with our specific objectives.

The action is also in line with the Statement of the Presidency of the Council, the European Commission



and the European social partners on “a new start for social dialogue”. It furthermore contributes to a just transition in the scaffolding sector. Specific objectives of the proposal are as follows:

1. To reinforce the currently weak social dialogue and lack of communication between national partners in the scaffolding sector.
2. To address working conditions in the sector with focus on occupational safety and health, including proposals for the standardisation of scaffolds.
3. Identify changes in the skills needs due to product innovations, digitalisation/robotisation, new skills and competences and possible effects on the work organisation. Combining and use these discussions with consideration/proposals on how to facilitate the participation of women in scaffolding work.
4. The discussion of OSH aspects, such as safety or ergonomics, can help provide scaffold manufacturers with useful information for their design innovation. Combined with the topic Future of Work (Digitisation and Robotisation), the project deals with elements of importance for a just transition.

One innovative aspect in the project is the anticipation of future options for working conditions and work organisation by bringing together manufacturers, users, science and standardisation representatives.

The main innovative element of this approach is the work on a European OSH Certificate for scaffolders. This would contribute to better European coordination in skills needs and the overall communication between national training providers in the sector. By this, the action could also support the innovation in other sectors.

Innovative is also the establishment of relations between employer structures in the sector and trade unions. This work already started when preparing this project application. With VSB one national employer federation is directly involved in the project. The aim to establish formal relations is innovative.

Another innovative aspect is the goal to improve gender equality in the sector by learning from existing examples in the sector but also from other sectors.

2. QUALITY

2.1 Concept and methodology

Concept and methodology

Outline the approach and methodology behind the project. Explain why they are the most suitable for achieving the project's objectives.

The underlying project hypothesis is that the overall conditions in the scaffolding sector, and especially the working conditions (OSH), are determined by framework conditions such as forms of employment, traditionally arduous working conditions as well as by more specific aspects like low quality of training level, the overall technological development in the sector or shortcomings in the standardisation of scaffolds, accompanied by weak Social Dialogue structures and huge differences of all the named conditions between EU countries.

The overall project concept is therefore to analyse the actual situation concerning the above-mentioned phenomena and to identify areas of possible action. The chosen method is to draft national reports and also an overall overview on the situation in the EU. The overall report shall provide insights allowing us to identify areas of action. The areas and considered actions shall be further discussed with experts and stakeholders in dedicated workshops.

Part of the methodology is to regularly report in related structures of the EFBWW (Standing Committee Building / Coordination Group on OSH) and within the European Social Dialogue for the Construction Sector, including feedback rounds. This more internal evaluation process will be accompanied by the work of an external evaluator (to be subcontracted).

In our concept, the research process, the evaluation of the research and the workshops build the basis for Policy Recommendations for various aspects of scaffolding work and training. Related to vocational training and because of its central role in the project, the described concepts and methods will be complemented by a visit to a training centre with an advanced training system. A better understanding of these education systems, will allow us to better formulate, respectively design, the European OSH Certificate for scaffolders.

All political recommendations for the various topics we deal with, are largely based on moderate levels



of social dialogue. We have a paritarian organisations involved in the project and the SVB (Vereniging van Steiger-, Hoogwerk- en Betonbekistingbedrijven). The UEG (Union der Europäischen Gerüstbauer) will be involved in project activities, we regularly report to the European social dialogue and discuss interim results in this framework and, not in the least, we will also report to AEIP (European Association of Paritarian Institutions) and regularly discuss interim results of the project with them.

The project approach is a bottom-up approach. This implies that all actions and activities would be tailor made and adapted according to the specific national situations. The project will apply a realistic approach, aiming to achieve tangible results, which will have a real impact on the training system, on working conditions, on how to manage the changes in the sector (transition) actively and on the industrial relations in the sector. The project builds on previous actions in the scaffolding sector and is drafted as a long-term engagement.

2.2 Consortium set-up

Consortium cooperation and division of roles (if applicable)

Describe the participants (Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities and Associated Partners, if any) and explain how they will work together to implement the project. How will they bring together the necessary expertise? How will they complement each other?

In what way does each of the participants contribute to the project? Show that each has a valid role and adequate resources to fulfil that role.

Note: When building your consortium you should think of organisations that can help you reach objectives and solve problems.

Project Coordinator

The **EFBWW** is the European representative social partner for the construction industry (workers). EFBWW has 75 trade unions in 34 countries.

The EFBWW internal structures (Especially the Standing Committee Building) will provide the help required to implement planned activities, give support, information and advice during every stage of the project. The internal EFBWW structures will also help evaluating the interim results of the project and mobilize participants for project events.

Since the late 80ies of the last century, the EFBWW has been organising a number of projects in the scaffolding sector, gaining experience regarding the sector specific aspects in terms of working conditions, skills and technology.

The EFBWW will do the overall communication and inform all partners who are all directly involved in the steering group. The daily communication will be arranged by e-mail contacts. The EFBWW is also contributing to the definition of policy recommendations. The EFBWW is preparing all the meetings.

Project partners

Constructiv (Belgium) is a paritarian organisation in the scaffolding sector. It is involved in the aspects of interest, has detailed insight in the overall conditions of the sector and represents a country with an advanced qualification system for scaffolders. It guarantees the direct involvement of both social partners in the sector and have means not only to inform about the project progress, but can also arrange feedback on the interim results of the project. In this respect, they play an important role for fostering sectoral Social Dialogue as one of the main goals of the project. They are also able to mobilize the actual target groups for the various workshops.

VSF is an employer federation consisting of three sections:

Section Scaffolding companies: Affiliated are companies that focus on the assembly and disassembly of scaffolding, manufacturers, suppliers and rental companies.

Section Companies working at a height: Manufacturers, suppliers, rental companies and companies that focus on the assembly, disassembly and installation of aerial work platforms, mast climbing work platforms, aluminium rolling towers, suspended platform systems, passenger/goods lifts, ladders, stairs or facade maintenance systems are members.

Section Concrete Formwork Companies: Affiliated are companies focusing on the manufacture, supply,



hire, assembly and disassembly of concrete formwork and support structures.

Constructiv and VSB are involved in the Steering group. They will be included in preparing the country reports for Belgium and the Netherlands and also evaluate the overall research report. Both organisations play a crucial role in the preparation of the workshop on social dialogue and the one dealing with education and training. They are also very much involved in the discussion and design of the European OSH Certificate.

Affiliated Entities

The national affiliates of EFBWW, namely **3F** – Denmark, **ACV BIE** - Belgium, **Budowlani** - Poland, **FNV** - Netherlands, **SIPTU** - Ireland are all covering, amongst other sectors, the scaffolding sector in their respective country. They are experienced in working conditions and collective bargaining for the sector and are also involved in OSH management and in one or the other way in administration and organisation of vocational education in the sector. Some of the affiliated entities have participated in previous conferences/projects for the scaffolding sector, run, respectively organised, by the EFBWW

All affiliated entities are involved in all activities of the steering group. They also play a crucial role in the definition of Policy Recommendations. The preparation of the policy Recommendations are run by discussions in the steering group, exchange of written contributions and comments. They discuss and agree jointly on the amended and final Policy Recommendations after the workshops. Budowlani has the role to coordinate this process. 3F, Budowlani and SIPTU also prepare the country reports for their respective countries.

All project partners are expected to report back to their internal structures and communicate back to the steering group. They are equally involved in the design of the research guide. The work will be coordinated via the steering group and online communication.

The involvement of the two external experts (subcontractors for the overall research report and the evaluation of the project) in all research work, in the elaboration of Policy Recommendations and in the design of the workshops, shall guarantee a neutral view and comments to the work of the project partners.

2.3 Project teams, staff and experts

Project teams and staff

Describe the project teams and how they will work together to implement the project.

List the staff included in the project budget (budget category A) by function/profile (e.g. project manager, financial manager, junior/senior expert, junior/senior advisor, trainers/, operational personnel, technical personnel, administrative personnel, communication personnel etc. and describe shortly their tasks. Provide CVs of all key actors.

Name and function	Organisation	Role/tasks/professional profile and expertise
Tom Deleu Project Manager	EFBWW	EFBWW General Secretary, responsible for the overall project management and the communication with the European Commission.
Rolf Gehring Project Coordinator	EFBWW	Studied educational sciences and has been working for the EFBWW since 2006. He is experienced in project execution and was involved in several projects dedicated to the scaffolding sector. He works on OSH issues in construction work and was also responsible for the area of vocational education. He is furthermore responsible for recognised EU social dialogues in the construction and the woodworking sectors. He is responsible for the overall project coordination / communication and the management of the steering group meetings. He is also responsible for the management of the subcontracted work packages and the reporting back to EFBWW structures.
Frank Leus Administrative assistant	EFBWW	Will take care of the day-to-day administration of the project, including reporting and communication with