



Fostering the Development of Sustainable Fisheries Grant Scheme

Guidelines for Applicants

Deadline for Application:
March 31, 2026 17:00 (Cyprus time)



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+90 548 829 24 35

info@eunite-cyprus.eu

Fostering the Development of Sustainable Fisheries Grant Scheme

Guidelines for Applicants

January 30, 2026

Lefkoşa



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+90 548 829 24 35

info@eunite-cyprus.eu

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AKIS	Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems
DoA	Description of Action
EU	European Union
FAS	Farm Advisory Services
GL	Green Line
GLT	Green Line trade
RD	Rural development
TAIEX	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange
TCC	Turkish Cypriot community

Glossary

Applicant	Applicant (fisher) to the Fostering the Development of Sustainable and Competitive Fisheries Grants Scheme
Beneficiary	Applicant that is contracted as a result of a successful grant award.
Contracting Authority	GIZ International Services
Eligibility	The requirements an applicant must fulfil to apply.
Module 4	<i>Module 4 refers to eunite:AgriBusiness that is run under eunite Programme umbrella. Fostering the Development of Sustainable and Competitive Fisheries Grants Scheme is implemented within the scope of eunite:AgriBusiness Module.</i>
Programme	eunite: Uniting Cyprus for Business
Scheme	Fostering the Development of Sustainable and Competitive Fisheries Grants Scheme

These “Guidelines for Applicants” are prepared for Fostering the Development of Sustainable and Competitive Fisheries Grants Scheme to support small-scale fishermen to improve their capacities in all aspects of sustainable fisheries and EU compliant trade.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The European Union (EU) has been supporting the social and economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community (TCc) via the Aid Programme (Regulation (EC) 389/2006) and aims to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community and particularly supporting:

- the economic integration of the island
- improving contacts between the two communities and with the EU
- the preparation for the EU acquis following a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue.

In the period of 2006–2024, the EU has allocated 728 million Euro to projects in support of the Turkish Cypriot community.

1.2 eunite:Uniting Cyprus for Business Programme

eunite: Uniting Cyprus for Business is funded by the European Union and implemented by GIZ International Services. The Programme is divided into thematic modules with their respective objectives. Fostering The Development of Sustainable and Competitive Fisheries Grant Scheme (*Fisheries Grant Scheme*) is implemented within the scope of the Module 4 under the eunite Programme.

The Overall Objective of Module 4 is to contribute to increased island-wide economic convergence and implementation of EU standards in the TCc through improved capacities and performance of the TCc agricultural, fisheries and rural development (RD) sectors.

This grant scheme is programmed under Outcome 4: Enhanced economic and environmental sustainability of small-scale fisheries value chain, particularly in view of Green Line trade of fresh fish and more specifically, Output 4.1: Strengthened capacity of small-scale fishermen and fisheries groups, to engage in sustainable fishing and EU-compliant trade in fresh fish.

1.3 Relevance

Turkish Cypriot fishers are currently facing a multitude of challenges that significantly impact their livelihoods. Economically, **rising operational costs**,

fluctuating fish prices, and competition from imported farmed fish strain their profitability. The lack of investments in modern fleets and technology, along with outdated fishing gear and engines, further impairs their efficiency and productivity. The strong positioning of middlemen in the supply chain diminishes fishermen's earnings, while inadequate storage facilities for fresh fish hinder the quality and saleability of their catch. The sector also lacks the necessary differentiation and quality assurance systems required to access higher-value EU markets.

In this respect, the support for the small-scale sustainable and competitive fisheries value chain, will be channelled via a grant scheme entitled "**Fostering the Development of Sustainable and Competitive Fisheries**", designed and implemented with the scope of strengthening the fisheries value chain. This scheme will be closely interlinked with the identified needs of fishermen and fisheries groups that will be determined in consultation with TAIEX experts involved in inspecting fishing vessels for Green Line trade as well as the TC fishing community.

Grants will support initiatives that will enhance the economic and environmental sustainability of fishing practices. These needs include, modernizing fleets, updating fishing gear and fresh fish handling and storage facilities to meet EU standards, enhancing market access, or developing value-added products.

The grant scheme shall be complementary to assistance provided to fishermen under outcomes 1 and 2 (AKIS, advisory services and training). As such, fisheries community will be encouraged to actively participate in the AKIS where fisheries will constitute a dedicated focus area while the enhanced FAS concept will allow for dedicated training and advisory services to be offered for fishermen and fisheries stakeholders.

2. Funding Support

2.1 Overall Budget

The total financial allocation for this grant scheme amounts to **800,000 Euro**. It is expected to fund around **50 beneficiaries**.

2.2 Grant Amount

The grant will cover **100%** of the eligible interventions up to a **maximum grant amount of 15,000 EUR**.



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For eligible interventions (*replacement of engines only*), should the cost exceed the maximum grant amount the applicant must commit to cover the difference which **cannot exceed 100%** of the grant amount, resulting in a total project value of **30,000 EUR**.

Each applicant can submit only one application for the vessels licensed under his/her name as per the licence issued by 'department of animal husbandry'.

3. Eligibility of Applicants (Who Can Apply)

3.1 Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants must be natural persons that:

- Possess a fishing licence (Category A or B) issued by the 'department of animal husbandry' for the year 2026.
- Hold a certificate of participation in the training course offered by the eunite:AgriBusiness project on sustainable fisheries.

3.2 Ineligible Applicants (Who Cannot Apply)

Ineligible applicants comprise of:

- Fishers that also possess/operate fishing shops.
- Middlemen, even if registered as fishers, are not eligible to apply.
- Family members or relatives unless they have separate fishing licence.
- Public officers.
- Individuals that have received funding towards the project from any other source.

Applicants will **not** be eligible for support under the Fisheries Grant Scheme if any of the following conditions also apply:

- The applicant has a **criminal record** related to activities that could undermine the integrity or legality of fisheries operations.
- The applicant is **currently in insolvency** or bankruptcy proceedings.

3.3 Eligible Expenditure (Menu of Support)

Support will be offered for a pre-defined list of expenditure that are clustered under 3 distinct packages. Applicants can select items from each of the three packages as they require. Applicants can only select from the packages available and cannot propose other investments which are not included under these packages.

These packages are designed to cover the needs of fishermen's operations from basic support to advanced, eco-friendly upgrades while aligning with the scheme's goals of sustainability, modernization, and increased GLT. Below are the support packages available:

1. Green Line Trade Standards Package

- Insulated ice boxes for storage
- Ice making machine on vessel
- Power washer
- Boat maintenance tools and materials (e.g., eco-friendly paints, basic repair kits)
- Waterproof digital thermometer
- Digital logbook tablets with fishing apps for traceability and compliance

2. Sustainability Package

- Small to mid-sized fuel-efficient, low-emission engine and/or gearbox including installation and fittings (up to 100Hp)
- Solar-powered ice-making machine on vessel
- Energy efficient/solar powered lighting
- Turtle excluder devices or dolphin pingers for environmental safeguarding

3. Modernisation Package

- Sustainable fishing net sets (quality, eco-friendly nets)
- Fishing lines, hooks and other attachments
- Fish finder device to improve catch efficiency
- Basic navigation or GPS device for route planning
- Winches for hauling lines and nets

In cases where the grant involves the replacement of engines, the beneficiary will be obliged to scrap the old engine and present a certificate confirming its disposal.

In case an applicant wishes to apply for a new engine the capacity of the engine that will be allowed has to be relative to the vessel size in accordance with the table below.

Boat Length	Recommended Power (HP)	Maximum Power (HP)
5 m	30–40	50
6 m	40–60	70
7 m or above	60–80	90–100

4. Submission Rules for Applications

4.1 Requirements of Application

Applicants must demonstrate their eligibility and complete all required information in the application form by the end of the application period. Applicants will be notified of any missing information during administrative checks, if any. Failure to submit the requested information within the stipulated timeline may lead to rejection of the application. The application consists of Annex 1 – Application Form and the required supporting documents.

4.2 Application Form

This document also contains a checklist, including a self-assessment section to ensure that all required supporting documentation has been provided. It also includes sections for applicants to indicate the items they wish to select from the three available support packages. In addition, a draft budget must be included indicating the grant amount requested, along with the relevant proforma invoices demonstrating that market research has been conducted.

The applicant is required to make prior preparations to bring all relevant supporting documentation, a draft budget, and evidence of market research (proforma invoices) to a one-to-one meeting that will be arranged during which the application will be received by the eunite team. At this meeting, the applicant will be assisted by the eunite team in completing the application form. The application form must be submitted in full, including all required supporting documents, and must be signed by the applicant or an authorised representative upon presentation of the valid power of attorney. Please refer to Annex 1 – Application Form.

4.3 Supporting Documentation

Eligible applicants are requested to provide a valid copy of the following documents along with the application form before the deadline for submission of the application:

A. Obligatory:

- Copy of a valid ID Card
- Fishing licence issued by the fishing unit within the department of animal husbandry for 2026
- Certificate of participation in the mandatory training program organised by eunite:AgriBusiness on sustainable fisheries.
- Police conduct certificate (issued in 2026)

B. Evidence of market research: *i.e.* ideally up to three comparable proforma invoices representing each of the selected items dated after 30 January 2026. Brief technical specifications of the items must be provided.

C. Optional:

- A valid tax registration certificate including clearly fishing as an economic activity
- A valid social security registration indicating fishing as an economic activity.
- If an applicant has been an active fisher for the last 2 years (2024 and 2025), he/she must present copies of relevant documentation demonstrating sales of fresh fish for each calendar year.

4.4 Meetings for the Submission of Applications

The deadline for applications is 31 March 2026 at 17:00 (Cyprus time). Applications will be received by the eunite team in hard-copy format during one-to-one appointments arranged for each applicant.

Fishers wishing to submit an application under this grant scheme must be present for the appointment given by the eunite team. The applications can only be received with an appointment. Further information regarding the venues and available dates for appointments will be provided.

Applicants must self-check and ensure that they fully understand the submission requirements and are prepared to bring all documents required for the application

to the meetings. Applications must be submitted in full. This includes conducting prior market research, preparing a proposed budget, and providing all required supporting documentation.

5 Evaluation Process and Award Criteria

Evaluation will be considered in two steps: (1) Administrative (2) Technical evaluation and award.

5.1 Eligibility and Administrative Compliance

eunite team will carry out the administrative checks in accordance with the eligibility and exclusion criteria for this call. Applications that do not comply with the **Eligibility Criteria** (see **Section 3**) will be rejected and will not proceed to the technical evaluation stage.

The **administrative check** will include verification of the following:

- Compliance with the eligibility criteria
- Submission of the application before the deadline
- Completion of all mandatory sections of the application form
- Submission of all required annexes and supporting documents
- Proper signature of all required documents by the applicant
- Accuracy of the budget
- Correctness/ validity of the documents submitted

5.2 Technical Evaluation and Award Criteria

Only applicants that comply with the eligibility criteria and are administratively compliant will advance to the technical evaluation. An Evaluation Committee will be established to carry out technical checks and awarding of applications. The award criteria are detailed below:

1. The Applicant	50
1.1 Applicant is a Full-Time fisher (Licence B) (10 points) Part-Time fisher (Licence A) (5 points)	10
1.2 Applicant is a young fisher under 40 yrs of age	10
1.3 Applicant has been an active fisher for at least 2 years	5

1.4 Applicant holds Tax registration with fishing listed as one of the economic activities.	5
1.5 Applicant holds social security registration with fishing listed as one of the economic activities.	5
1.6 Applicant has a registered vessel for GLT and has traded fresh fish across GL in 2025.	10
1.7 Applicant has registered vessel for GLT.	5
2. Relevance of the Action	50
2.1 Project leads to adherence to local and EU fishing standards and regulations allowing for <i>Green Line Trade (GLT Standards Package)</i> One item from the list (10 points) Two or more items from the list (25 points)	25
2.2 Project incorporates eco-friendly technologies or methods (Sustainability Package) One item from the list (10 points) Two or more items from the list (15 points)	15
2.3 Project includes the adoption of modern, efficient, and environmentally sustainable fleet, gear, or technological upgrades that enhance fishing operations (Modernization Package) One item from the list (5 points) Two or more items from the list (10 points)	10
Total:	100

5.3 Grant Award Process

The maximum score is **100 points**, and an application must achieve a minimum of **50 points** to be considered for award. Applications scoring **50 points or above** will be ranked in descending order according to their total scores. Awarding of grants will be determined on the basis of score, starting with the highest scoring applications until budget availability.

Where the number of eligible applications exceeds the available budget allocated to this scheme, eligible applications with the lowest scores that do not receive funding will be placed on a reserve list, to be considered should additional funds become available.

If two or more applications obtain the same total score, priority will be given to applications that presents Licence B and, as a second level of priority, having a registered vessel for GLT, and as a third level priority, having received full score from Package A – GLT Standards Package.

The selection of awarded applications will be based solely on the scores obtained in the scoring table.

Following evaluation, the applicants will be notified of the results, and the successful applicants will be called for contract signature.

6 Contract Signature and Project Implementation Summary

6.1 Contract Signature

Successful applicants will be invited to sign an agreement with GIZ International Services (Contracting Authority). The duration of the project implementation cannot exceed 12 months after the contract signature unless duly justified reasons are presented. The contract includes procurement, deliveries and installation of the associated equipment.

6.2 Procurement and Delivery of Supplies by GIZ

The award of the funding does not lead to a payment of the grant amount to the successful applicant. GIZ International Services is solely responsible for the direct procurement of equipment and selection of potential suppliers for all beneficiaries under this scheme. GIZ will make direct payments to the suppliers for the procured items.

The Beneficiary is required to pay only the outstanding balance, i.e. any amount exceeding EUR 15,000 for replacement of the engines, to GIZ prior to the procurement of the proposed equipment. The procured equipment will then be formally handed over to the beneficiary. Further information on the project implementation including procurement, payment procedure, etc. will be provided to the beneficiaries at the contracting stage.

6.3 Beneficiary Responsibilities

At all times, the beneficiary is required to comply with and act upon any guidance provided by the eunite team and/or GIZ International Services.

Beneficiaries are responsible for the following:



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- Sign grant agreement within the stipulated deadline.
- Beneficiary may not request any amendment to contract after the contract signature unless duly justified.
- Financing project costs that exceed the approved grant amount in the case of engines only.
- Completing all the preparatory works prior to installation (e.g. removal and scrapping of existing engines, structural interventions to vessel suggested by the supplier, etc). Failure to complete such preparatory works within the indicated deadline may result in the forfeiture of the award. In such occasion the grant may be reallocated to another eligible applicant on the reserve list.
- Ensuring that installation works can be carried out under appropriate and safe conditions.

7 Indicative Timetable

Application, evaluation and award process for the Grants Scheme will be undertaken as per the steps listed on the table below:

Application, Evaluation and Award Process Timetable	
Information Sessions	See section 8
Application admission	See section 4
Deadline for submission of Applications	March 31, 2026, 17:00 (Cyprus time)
Notification of evaluation results	May 2026
Agreement signature	From July 2026
Project implementation period	12 months

8 Further Information to Applicants

8.1 Information Sessions

Information sessions will be organised in the following venues to explain the application requirements. Final details of the information sessions will be shared through the eunite social media channels and on the www.eunite-cyprus.eu website. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to attend these information

sessions in order to gain a clear understanding of the application requirements.

Tentative Schedule for Information Sessions

Information Session No. 1	Date:	February 2, 2026, Monday
	Time:	15:00-17:00
	Location:	Atatürk Cultural Centre Morphou/Güzelyurt
	Google Maps link:	https://maps.app.goo.gl/bJ7qe5wvnZ4bxWLM7
Information Session No. 2	Date:	February 3, 2026, Tuesday
	Time:	15:00-17:00
	Location:	Erdoğan Hoşsöz Amphitheatre Yialousa/Yenierenköy
	Google Maps link:	https://maps.app.goo.gl/GGXGBkDwSULdkkw57

8.2 Contact Details

For queries on appointments, questions and clarifications:

Phone	0548 829 2435
Location	Zühtüzade Sokak 3-1 Lefkoşa, Cyprus
Google Maps link	https://maps.app.goo.gl/9Mt8x6oJZdydvkhHA

Annexes

Annex 1: Application form for Fostering the Development of Sustainable and Competitive Fisheries Grants Scheme




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PART A GENERAL INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY CHECK

A1. General Applicant Information

Name of the Applicant	
ID number	
Age*	
Home Address	
Shelter Name	
Vessel Number	
Phone number	
Email address (if applicable)	

A2. Eligibility Check and Supporting Documents to be provided

Obligatory	Supporting Document	YES/ NO
The applicant has a valid ID.	Copy of a valid ID Card	
The applicant has no criminal record.	Police conduct certificate (2026 issued)	
The applicant has a fishing licence for 2026.	Fishing licence (category A or B) issued by the department of animal husbandry for 2026	
The applicant has certificate of attendance to the training programme organised by eunite : AgriBusiness on sustainable fisheries.	Certificate of participation	
The applicant is not a public officer.	Please sign declaration (Part D)	
The applicant does not possess/operate fishing shops.	Please sign declaration (Part D)	
The applicant is not a middlemen (Even if registered as a fisher)	Please sign declaration (Part D)	
The applicant is not currently in insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings.	Please sign declaration (Part D)	
The applicant is not currently in receipt of any other funding for the project proposed.	Please sign declaration (Part D)	
Evidence of market research	Ideally up to three proforma invoices including brief	

	specifications covering all proposed equipment	
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Optional	Supporting Document	YES/ NO
The applicant is registered in the local tax department clearly indicating fishing as an economic activity. *	A valid tax registration certificate for fishing activity.	
The applicant is registered in the social security department indicating fishing as an economic activity. *	A valid social security registration for fishing activity.	
The applicant has been an active fisher for the last 2 years (2024 and 2025).*	Copies of documents demonstrating sales of fresh fish for each calendar year.	

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) contain information relevant to the technical evaluation and award criteria and will be taken into account during the evaluation process.

PART B. SUPPORT PACKAGES

Please select items from the below pre-defined list of support. At least two items from each support package must be selected to receive the max score per each section.

1. Green Line Trade Standards Package	Select
Insulated ice boxes for storage	
Digital logbook tablets with fishing apps for traceability and compliance	
Ice making machine on vessel	
Power washer	
Boat maintenance tools and materials (e.g., eco-friendly paints, basic repair kits)	
Waterproof digital thermometer	

2. Sustainability Package	Select
Small to mid-sized fuel-efficient, low-emission engine and/or gearbox including installation and fittings (up to 100Hp)	

Solar-powered ice-making machine on vessel	
Energy efficient/solar powered lighting	
Turtle excluder devices or dolphin pingers for environmental safeguarding	

3. Modernization Package	Select
Sustainable fishing net sets (quality, eco-friendly nets)	
Fishing lines, hooks and other attachments	
Fish finder device to improve catch efficiency	
Basic navigation or GPS device for route planning	
Winches for hauling lines and nets	

PART C. INDICATIVE BUDGET

Packages	Description of the item	Unit	Unit cost (in EUR)	Grant Amount Requested (in EUR)	Indicative contribution for engine (in EUR)	Proforma (Yes/No)
1. Green Line Trade Standards						
<i>e.g. Insulated ice boxes for storage</i>	<i>e.g. 60x60 cm insulated ice box</i>	2	1500	3000		
<i>e.g. Power washer</i>	<i>e.g. 5hp washer</i>	1	2000	2000		
2. Sustainability Package						
<i>e.g. Small to mid-sized fuel-efficient, low-emission engine and/or gearbox including installation and fittings (up to</i>	<i>e.g. Marine engine 50hp</i>	1	8000	8000	8000	
<i>e.g. Energy efficient/solar powered lighting</i>	<i>To be defined</i>	1	1000	1000		
3. Modernization Package						
<i>e.g. Sustainable fishing net sets (quality, eco-friendly nets)</i>	<i>To be defined</i>	1	500	500		
<i>e.g. Fishing lines, hooks and other</i>	<i>To be defined</i>	1	500	500		
TOTAL				15000	8000	-

*the budget must be prepared taking into account the prices without VAT.



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PART D. DECLARATION

Declaration

I confirm that all information provided is true, accurate and up to date. Should any false or misleading information be identified by the Contracting Authority, the application shall be rendered void.

I confirm that I read all the relevant documents of the scheme and confirm that what is stated in this application complies with the criteria set.

I confirm that all the data I have provided for the application will be stored and processed within the scope of the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and in accordance with the provisions of the terms of processing personal data.

I accept that what I stated in this application does not involve in any illegal operations or any activity with counterfeit goods.

I hereby confirm that the proposal is not covered by an existing GIZ contract and by any other funding resources.

I hereby confirm that I have been informed, understood and accept that, unless I provide the documents required as evidence to my statements in the "A2. Eligibility Check and Supporting Documents" section above, my application will be considered incomplete and will not be taken further.

This application has been drafted and prepared during my appointment on the basis of the information and technical specifications I have provided and according to my request. I hereby confirm that I have been fully briefed on and have reviewed all details included in this application document, and I acknowledge and accept full responsibility for its whole content as submitted.

Date:/...../2026

Name of the Applicant	
Signature	