

KSH 4: Innovation

Specific Requirements

Why should you apply for an INSPIRE Community of Practice and collaborate with the INSPIRE Knowledge and Support Hub on inclusive gendered innovations?

- ✓ Communities of Practice and the Knowledge and Support Hub are **a forum for sharing knowledge and experience** on implementing inclusive gendered innovations and dealing with intersectionality in product/technology development as well as in social innovations or research funding.
- ✓ In our collaboration we take into account the different **historical, cultural, political and economic contexts** as well as the different development levels of research and innovation systems in Europe and beyond.
- ✓ Communities of Practice will benefit from the knowledge of other INSPIRE Knowledge and Support Hubs about developing and implementing Gender Equality Plans, implementing sustainable change and dealing with other diversity dimensions.
- ✓ Networking and knowledge exchange events **connect members of different Communities of Practice** like funding organisations, experts, companies and research organisations and foster learning between diverse experiences in inclusive gendered innovation and research.
- ✓ Community of Practice members can participate in the development of instruments that support gender-specific innovation processes to ensure demand orientation and tailor-made solutions.
- ✓ Communities of Practice receive **support on topics** such as "Improving Quality & Equality in R&I", which help companies implement inclusive gendered innovations through training and expert support.

Who can become a Community of Practice in Knowledge and Support Hub 4?

The **Knowledge and Support Hub on inclusive gendered innovations** seeks applications for Communities of Practice from **groups of private research and innovation companies** and from **organisations funding applied research and innovations**. The Knowledge and Support Hub will collaborate with one Community of Practice composed of research and innovation funding agencies and two Communities of Practice comprising mainly research and innovation companies. Community of Practice members are organisations represented by a staff member.

Representatives of Community of Practice members are not limited to a specific organisational role or function. Ideally, they should be innovation managers, technology developers, product designers, funding program managers etc., but could also be other staff members. They need not be official representatives of their organisations, but need to get the top management commitment for participating in a Community of Practice by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) defining their future joint collaboration. You can download a MoU template [here](#).

Community of Practice members and their representatives should be interested in establishing or advancing their knowledge and organisational processes on inclusive gendered innovations.

We are looking for your application to become an INSPIRE Community of Practice!

To become a Community of Practice (CoP), it is preferable but not an obligatory condition if Community of Practice members have already collaborated before for instance in a regional or sectorial innovation network or cluster, in a research or innovation project etc.

A mix of companies or research funding agencies with different levels of experiences on this topic would be ideal.

- Community of Practice members should be **interested in the topic of inclusive gendered innovations** as described above. This should be clearly described in the application (in the section on motivation).
- One Community of Practice in Knowledge and Support Hub 4 will be comprised of **innovation oriented funding organisations**. These agencies can fund either applied research and/or innovations in research and innovation companies among others.
- Two Communities of Practice will be comprised of **mainly research and innovation companies**. These Communities of Practice could also include other types of organisations like NGOs or public research organisations. Nevertheless, the research and innovation companies should be the majority of Community of Practice members.
- Communities of Practice should **have at least five members** (ideally eight members). The number of Community of Practice members is not limited but we recommend that a Community of Practice should ideally have not more than 15 members. The number of Community of Practice members is not a selection criterion as long as there are at least five members from different organisations within a Community of Practice.
- The two company Communities of Practice should be **ideally composed of companies working in the same technological field, industry or sector** like ICT, Green Tech, social innovation etc.;
- Communities of Practice should ideally include **a mixture of experienced companies and companies new to the topic of inclusive gendered innovations**; but also Communities of Practice comprising only R&I companies or only innovation funding agencies with no prior knowledge or experiences with inclusive gendered innovations are eligible; please indicate this in your application form.
- Communities of Practice showing **a geographical spread** meaning engaging companies or agencies from more than one EU member state, associated country etc. will be selected preferentially.

If you are interested in applying, please fill in the application form and the expression of interest.

We would be happy to receive an expression of interest in advance as soon as you consider applying. This will help us both in organising the Communities of Practice and distributing the vacancies from the start. The expression of interest is not binding.

Please download the application form [here](#) and submit it until **November 14th, 2023, 17:00 (CET)**.

For further questions please send an email to this address:
innovationKSH@inspirequality.eu

For more information about the KSH4: Innovation, go [here](#).



General Information

WHAT IS INSPIRE?

INSPIRE aims to become Europe's Centre of Excellence on Inclusive Gender Equality in Research & Innovation and therefore brings together cutting-edge knowledge, ambitious policy approaches, and innovative practices to provide a gateway for scholars, equality experts, practitioners, innovators, funders, policy makers and trainers to connect and share resources, as well as co-create new ones.

It is organised in four thematically oriented Knowledge and Support Hubs: Sustaining Change, Initiating Change, Intersectionality and Innovation. Each KSH will collaborate with and support three CoPs specifically in the field of its main topic.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (COP)?

A Community of Practice is a group of representatives from different Research & Innovation organisations with shared interest in advancing (inclusive) gender equality in R&I in their organisations.

In total, INSPIRE will support 12 CoPs – three for each KSH. CoP consists of at least 5 to 6 member organisations. We suggest that a CoP meets once a month for a CoP meeting lasting about two hours. The runtime of CoPs is of 27 months: from March 2024 to May 2026.