

StairwAI 1st Open Call for Pilots - CALL ANNOUNCEMENT

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| Call title: | StairwAI 1st Open Call for Pilots |
| Full name of the EU funded project: | Stairway to AI: Ease the Engagement of Low-Tech users to the AI-on-Demand platform through AI |
| Project acronym: | StairwAI |
| Grant agreement number: | 101017142 |
| Call publication date: | 13 January 2022 at 13:00 CET (Brussels Time) |
| Call deadline: | 15 March 2022 at 13:00 CET (Brussels Time) |
| Expected duration of participation: | 6 months |
| Total EU funding available: | € 60.000 per SME (including vouchers: up to € 10 000 to access HW Resources and up to € 24 000 for AI experts) |
| Submission & evaluation process: | <p>Submission through the application form available on: https://stairwai-1st-open-call.fundingbox.com/</p> <p>The selection of the Open Call proposals will be carried out in a six-step process.</p> <p>Step 1 will check the proposals against eligibility criteria</p> <p>Step 2 (optional) will pre-select the best proposals based on pre-scoring criteria</p> <p>Step 3 will involve external evaluation to assess the proposal according to the criteria.</p> <p>Step 4 will involve the StairwAI consortium to choose the proposals based on the external evaluation results and the objectives of the StairwAI project.</p> <p>Step 5 will involve the StairwAI consortium to select the finalists based on the Jury Day pitches and evaluation criteria.</p> <p>Step 6 will include the review of legal documents before the Sub Grant Agreement signature.</p> <p>For further information see the Guide of Applicants section 4.</p> |
| Further information: | <p>Application form: https://stairwai-1st-open-call.fundingbox.com/</p> <p>OC helpdesk email: info.stairwai@fundingbox.com</p> <p>Project website: https://stairwai.fundingbox.com/</p> |
| Applicants and eligibility: | <p>Low-tech SMEs (registered as legal entities) established in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Member States of the European Union and its Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) or ● Associated Countries to H2020, ● The United Kingdom. <p>Applicants must address one of the challenges areas described in the Guide for Applicants, section 3.2.</p> |

About StairwAI:



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement 101017142.

Grant Agreement N° 101017142

StairwAI (*Stairway to AI: Ease the Engagement of Low-Tech users to the AI-on-Demand platform through AI*) is an EU-funded project targeting low-tech users with the goal of facilitating their engagement in the [AI4EU platform](#). This will be achieved through a new service layer enriching the functionalities of the on-demand platform and containing:

- a multilingual interaction layer
- a horizontal matchmaking service and
- a vertical matchmaking service

To test the above-mentioned new services, StairwAI is targeting SMEs working in low-tech sectors that do not have immediate access nor knowledge on AI techniques, matching them with cloud providers and AI experts.

StairwAI will select **14 low-tech SMEs** to perform a **feasibility study and pilot** for the adoption of AI. Applicants have to focus on addressing one of the **challenge areas** using a set of **AI tools and resources** that will be available on the [AI4EU platform](#).

What do we offer?

- Financial support (up to **€ 60.000**)
- Support from Technical Mentor with a wide background in AI and knowledge of technologies offered within the project,
- Support from Business Mentor to help define the Business Model and the Exploitation Plan for market deployment,
- Experts in AI (mentors and system integrators),
- HW resources to support deploying the pilot,
- AI resources and tools available on AI4EU Platform.

