

## DeSIRA-LIFT Service area 1

### On-line Inception Workshop for DeSIRA Pillar 1 Projects:

## Aiming for impacts:

# what do you need and how can DeSIRA-LIFT support you?

## Objectives

The main objective of the inception workshops is to identify DeSIRA Projects' support needs to manage for positive impacts and to introduce the DeSIRA-LIFT support service offer.

The specific objectives are to:

- Listen to projects' strategies and challenges to manage for impacts;
- Guiding projects through critical reflection exercises on their innovation strategies;
- Identify key success factors and capacity needs to make research for innovation work in project-based approaches;
- Reflect on possible improvements of projects' MEL strategies and tools;
- Create space for mutual learning between DeSIRA projects;
- Kick-off a DeSIRA community of practices on how to manage R&I project for impacts;
- Collect DeSIRA-LIFT service demands from project leaders.

## Process and timeline for the inception workshop

The 69 projects of the DeSIRA-pillar 1 portfolio are split into four clusters based on geographic and language criteria<sup>1</sup>. Each cluster will benefit from a four-day inception workshop according to the agenda below.

Inception workshops are composed of four interactive sessions of 2h30 with a panel of experts in MEL and innovation strategies, alternating with guided assignments ('homework') for project teams to help the participants apply the principles and insights to reflect on their own project management and make improvements if needed. The results will be shared and discussed at the beginning of each session.

Each session is organized as follows:

- Introduction
- Sharing of experiences and outputs of the assignments with a panel of experts and wrap-up of the previous day (start on day 2);
- Zoom in and out on specific challenges faced by projects, using project activities as case studies and sub-group discussions facilitated by DESIRA-LIFT experts;
- Presentation of 'Homework' for the next session:
  - o Putting in practice the take-home messages of the session;
  - o Short online e-survey to collect each project's support needs and demand for DESIRA-LIFT services.

## Planning

	Workshop language	Dates	Schedules (CET)
<b>Cluster 1</b> Projects in the French-speaking African region	French	15-18 March	10h-12h30
<b>Cluster 2</b> Projects in the Asia region	English	22-25 March	10h-12h30
<b>Cluster 3</b>	English	22-25 March	14h-16h30

<sup>1</sup> for cluster composition, please see the DeSIRA website: <https://www.desiralift.org/>

Projects in the English-speaking African region			
Cluster 4 Projects in the Latin American region	Spanish	5-8 April	15h-17h30

## Workshop participants

For each project, the project leader together with the project manager (if applicable) and the MEL manager are invited to attend the four sessions of the inception workshop and to mobilize the project team for completing the homework assignments between sessions.

## Workshop approach

The sessions are interactive and based on experience sharing between DeSIRA projects, facilitated by DeSIRA-LIFT experts who will provide guidance and insights on how to manage for positive impacts.

## Logistics

- Participants can register via this link: <https://forms.gle/YujJyHPimtcsAGHF9>
- Inception workshops will be held virtually on Zoom. Login link will be provided one week before the workshop;
- Collaborative digital platforms will be used for sub-group discussions and knowledge sharing. A technical checking will be offered to the workshop participants one week ahead of the workshop.

## Agenda

<b>DAY 1</b>	<b>Session 1</b> <b>Let's talk about Theory of Change: how can it enhance your intervention strategy?</b>
150 min	<p><b>Welcoming and overview of the four-day sessions</b></p> <p>Ice Breaker</p> <p><b>Part 1- Setting the scene: your Project within the DeSIRA Initiative</b></p> <p><b>Part 2 – Zoom-in: Getting to know better some Projects' theories of change (ToC)</b></p> <p>Break-out rooms: identifying tips and tops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Case study 1 – Group 1: Project working at the innovation niche level</i></li> <li>- <i>Case study 2- Group 2: Project working at the level of innovation support service ecosystem(s)</i></li> <li>- <i>Case study 3- Group 3: Project working at the level of innovation policies and institutional environment</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Back to Plenary</b> – Sharing group work results and bringing additional inputs</p> <p><b>Part 3 - Zoom-out:</b> introduction to the basics of working with a ToC and making the link to DESIRA-LIFT support service offer – Q/A with the panel of experts</p> <p><b>Homework guidance:</b> How to conduct a critical and reflexive review of your Project's ToC; expressing your support needs (e-survey)</p>
<b>DAY 2</b>	<b>Session 2</b> <b>The challenges of project-based and research-led approaches to open innovation</b>
150 min	<p><b>Part 1 - Sharing homework:</b> interactive discussions with the panel of experts</p> <p><b>Part 2 – Zoom-in: how does your project contribute to an innovation trajectory?</b></p> <p>Break-out rooms – identifying tips and tops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Case study 1 – Group 1: Research in support to innovation(s) prototyping</i> how to stimulate creativity, co-design; how to establishing viability model(s); etc.</li> <li>- <i>Case study 2- Group 2: Research in support to innovation(s) up-scaling</i> how to conduct participatory experimentation and position the innovation towards scaling up</li> </ul>

- **Case study 3- Group 3: Research in support to innovation(s) sustaining** - how to sustain the innovation over time

**Back to Plenary** - Sharing group work results and bringing additional inputs

**Part 3 - Zoom-out:** introduction to researchers' roles in innovation systems and processes, their practices and challenges to contribute to open collaborative innovation processes in project-based approaches – Q/A with the panel of experts

**Homework guidance** – How to conduct a critical and reflexive review of your innovation strategy; expressing your support needs (e-survey)

### DAY 3 Session 3 Building space for learning in your M&E system

150 min

**Part 1 - Sharing homework:** interactive discussions with the panel of experts

**Part 2 – Zoom-in: how to stimulate critical reflection and make use of it for project management?**

Break-out rooms - identifying tips and tops

- **Case study 1 – Group 1: Project with no or low MEL dedicated resources** how MEL is embedded in project activities – how to organize learning moments in the run of innovation platforms;
- **Case study 2- Group 2: Project with an elaborate MEL system** how to create a learning culture in the project partnership;
- **Case study 3- Group 3: Project with a digital MEL system** - how to use ICT in support to collective learning and adaptive management

**Back to Plenary** – Sharing group work results and bringing additional inputs

**Part 3 - Zoom-out:** introduction to the MEL purposes and principles and approaches to support & monitor learning loops – Q/A with the panel of experts

**Homework guidance:** How to conduct a critical and reflexive review of your MEL system; expressing your support needs (e-survey)

### DAY 4 Session 4 Measuring and generating evidence on project's outcomes

150 min

**Part 1 - Sharing homework:** interactive discussions with the panel of experts

**Part 2 – Zoom-in: how to measure outcomes and generate evidence against your logframe?**

Break-out rooms – identifying tips and tops

- **Case study 1 – Group 1: Project with capacity outcome indicators**-defining and using progress markers for capacity outcomes
- **Case study 2- Group 2: Project with outcome indicators on governance mechanisms** - examples of outcome indicators and data sources
- **Case study 3- Group 3: Tracing outcome contributions to impacts**

**Back to Plenary** – Sharing group work results and bringing additional inputs

**Part 3 - Zoom-out:** introduction to EU requirements, and the ways to integrate ToC and logframes, to develop customized indicators and more robust representation of Project achievements – Q/A with the panel of experts

**Homework guidance** – How to conduct a critical review of your approach to generate evidence (M&E matrix and M&E planning); expressing your support needs (e-survey)

**Workshop conclusion** - Overview of projects' support needs, DESIRA-LIFT support service offer and next steps

**Final E-survey to collect projects' support service demands + workshop evaluation**