

HORIZON-EUSPA-2023-SPACE
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*“Empowering Climate-Smart Agriculture with Copernicus and IoT
Innovations for Smallholder Farmers in Africa”*

KijaniSpace Innovation Program

Call for application proposal

Deadline for submission: 16 November 2026



Funded by
the European Union

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1. Introduction

KijaniSpace is a Horizon Europe project focused on extending the use of Copernicus Earth Observation data, Internet of Things resources and climate-smart agriculture solutions in Africa. The project is developing Space-IoT Box, a Space-IoT Solution Box that integrates Earth Observation resources, IoT tools, platforms and datasets to support local innovation in agriculture. The project is piloted in the Great Lake Victoria Basin region and focuses on climate-smart agriculture applications, including crop farming and fish farming.

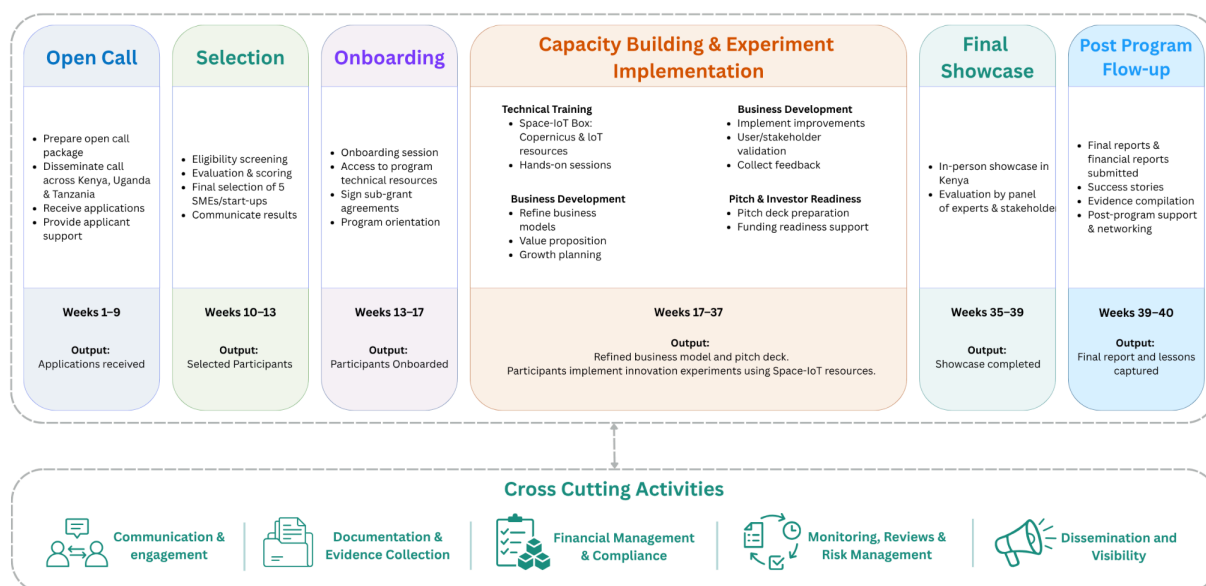
The project is now launching the “KijaniSpace Innovation Program” to support SMEs in the Lake Victoria region. The Program will give the opportunity to 5 innovative SMEs and start-up companies to improve their existing products with Copernicus and IoT technologies. The program is open to SMEs and start-ups which have developed agriculture products either for crop farming or fish farming. A rigorous selection process will select the five best companies.

2. The KijaniSpace Innovation Program

The program will support up to five selected SMEs or start-ups from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Selected teams will carry out innovation experiments over a period of 8 months using Copernicus, Earth Observation and IoT resources, made available through the “Space-IoT Box”. Applicants should already have an existing agriculture-related product, service or application linked to climate-smart agriculture (such as crop farming or fish farming).

The program will offer capacity building, mentoring and financial support. The selected SMEs will be asked to further improve their products using the “Space-IoT Box”. As part of this task, the participants will receive technical and entrepreneurial training and support. The program will also guide the SMEs for possible funding and access to finance opportunities from Europe and Africa. A final event will be organised to showcase the work of the SMEs.

KijaniSpace Innovation Program Overview



2.1. Who Can Apply

The open call is targeted at SMEs and start-ups that are legally established and operating in one of the following countries:

- Kenya
- Uganda
- Tanzania

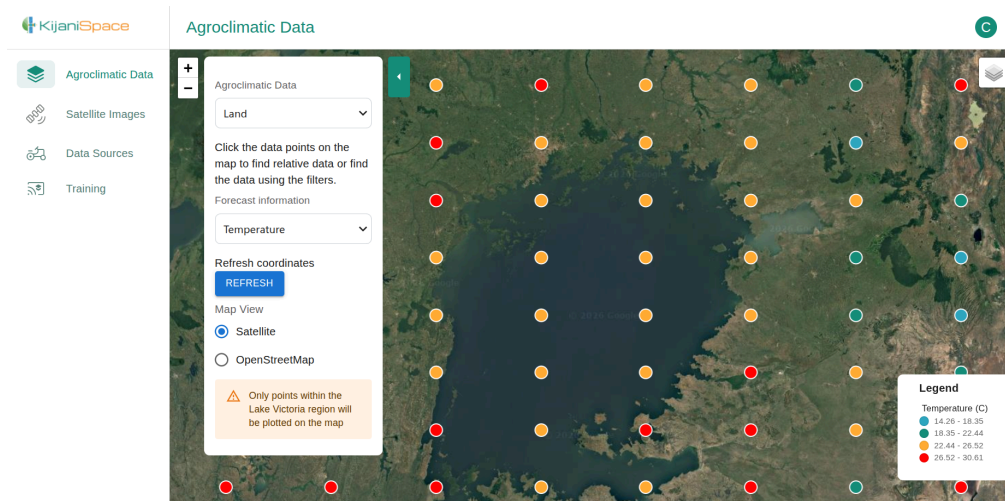
Applicants may apply as a single organisation. Only one proposal will be accepted for funding per applicant or team. Applicants must have an existing agriculture-related product, service or application linked to crop farming, fish farming or another relevant climate-smart agriculture use case.

2.2. Your benefits

Selected SMEs and start-ups will receive:

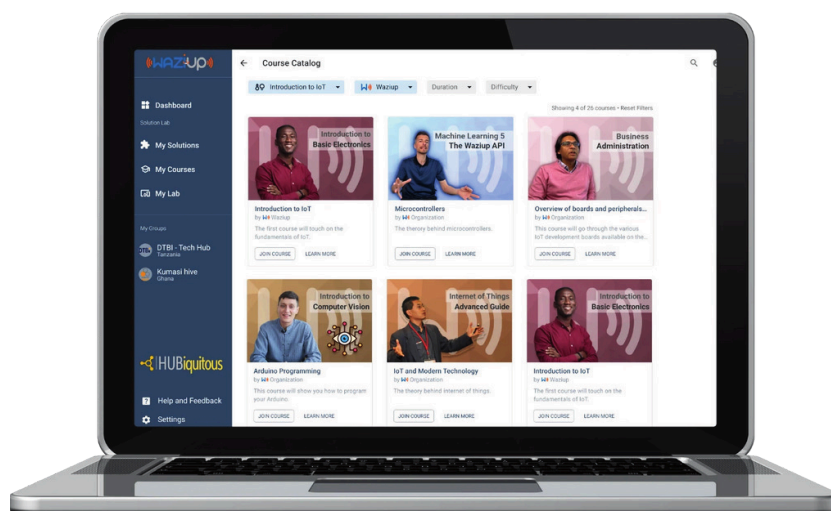
- **Access to Space-IoT Box** resources, tools, datasets and documentation.
- **Technical training** on relevant Copernicus, Earth Observation and IoT resources.
- **Business development** and entrepreneurial support.
 - Product and **market validation** support.
 - **Pitch and investment** readiness support.
- **Mentorship and guidance** during the innovation experiment implementation period.
- Opportunity to present the innovation experiment during the **final showcase** in **Kenya**.
- **Financial support** of up to EUR 5,000 for eligible costs linked to the approved innovation experiment.

The **Space-IoT Box** is an integrated solution environment developed by the KijaniSpace project to make Copernicus Earth Observation resources, IoT data, tools, platforms and datasets easier for local actors to access and use for climate-smart agriculture. It is a platform that integrates geographic information systems, remote sensing, and Internet of Things from already tested EU initiatives and programmes for geospatial analytics and decision support. It is designed to facilitate the development of Copernicus downstream by developers from the Victoria Lake region. The platform exposes a comprehensive API layer that unifies access to existing solutions and enhances them with additional partner-provided services.



Screenshot of the Space-IoT Box platform

A unique component of the Space-IoT box is the WaziLab learning platform. It provides structured IoT courses, training materials, hardware documentation, tutorials and the practical resources that help learners develop the skills to design, build and test their own EO/IoT solutions. Visit WaziLab [here](#) and the Space-IoT Box [here](#).



The WaziLab Learning Center

2.3. What do we expect from you?

The program expects you to improve an existing product using Earth Observation (satellite images from Copernicus) and Internet of Things. Applicants may propose innovation experiments linked to areas such as:

- Weather and climate monitoring using IoT sensors and remote sensing data.
- Water quality monitoring for fish farming.
- Fish farming decision-support services.
- Crop monitoring and crop phenology.
- Farm input planning, irrigation support and farm management.
- Crop disease risk monitoring and alerts.
- Seasonal planning and agroclimatic zoning.
- Precision agriculture using satellite imagery and IoT data.
- Hydrological flow assessment using IoT observations and satellite image analysis.

These are example areas. Applicants may propose other relevant climate-smart agriculture solutions that can benefit from Space-IoT Box resources. More in details, the selected SMEs and start-ups will:

- Participate in an onboarding session.
- Participate in training and business support meetings.
- Submit one short progress report per month during the program.
- Participate in the in-person final showcase of the outcome of your innovation experiment in Kenya.
- Provide documentation of technical outputs, validation feedback, expected impacts and lessons learned.
- Support project communication and dissemination through approved non-confidential materials.

Additionally, the participant will need to sign a dedicated Sub-Grant Agreement with the KijaniSpace project coordinator.

2.4. Financial Support

Each selected SME or start-up may receive financial support of up to EUR 5,000. The financial support will cover eligible actual costs incurred during the implementation of the approved innovation experiment. Costs must be directly linked to the approved activities, milestones and expected deliverables. Financial support may be used for activities directly linked to the approved innovation experiment, including:

- Testing and improving the selected product, service or application using Space-IoT Box resources.
- Implementing new features or services based on Copernicus and IoT technologies.
- Collecting data, user feedback or stakeholder validation linked to the experiment.
- Preparing technical documentation, validation evidence and impact summaries.
- Participating in KijaniSpace virtual meetings, hackathons, showcase activities or related dissemination events.
- Participate in the final Demo Day.
- Communication and dissemination activities linked to the funded experiment.

Funding must be used only for the approved innovation experiment and in line with the sub-grant agreement. The payment arrangement is the following:

- One pre-financing payment of 20% of the approved project budget.
- One final payment covering the remaining approved eligible costs after approval of the final report and corresponding deliverables.

Selected beneficiaries will submit a financial statement with supporting evidence at the end of the funded experiment for assessment by the KijaniSpace project coordinator.

If funds are misused or costs are found to be ineligible, the beneficiary will repay the affected amount to the KijaniSpace project coordinator in line with the financial support conditions.

2.5. Activities

The Program activities are divided into 3 main phases:

- **Phase 1 - Training and business development support**
- **Phase 2 - Experiment planning and implementation**
- **Phase 3 - Final showcase in Kenya**

2.6. Phase 1 - Training and business development support

The Training and business development support phase will include a series of webinars on Earth Observation and Internet of Things. It will include an initial high-level introduction to the program objectives, technical tools and technologies available in the program, the Space-IoT Box, pedagogical skills, and fundamental business skills.

All courses will be taken at the WaziLab Learning Center, where SMEs can access high-quality courses and videos with experts in the domain of IoT and AI.

The following Table shows the planned meetings/courses for this phase.

Support Category	Session / Activity	Suggested Duration
Technical training	Introduction to Space-IoT Box resources	1.5 Hours
	Copernicus and Earth Observation for agriculture	2 Hours
	IoT data collection and integration	2 Hours
	Technical experiment review	1 hour (1 SME/day)
Business development support	Business model and value proposition review	1 hour (1 SME/day)
	Refined business model and value proposition presentation	1 hour (1 SME/day)
	Market and customer positioning	1.5 Hours
	Growth and sustainability planning	1.5 Hours

2.7. Phase 2 - Experiment implementation & mentoring

The SMEs will first prepare an experiment plan, including a timeline of activities. They will then proceed with implementation, such as improving the selected product, service or application using Space-IoT Box resources, or implementing new features or services based on Copernicus and IoT technologies. The implementation phase will include testing and validation of the new or improved features with the specific target groups identified in each proposal, such as farmers, fish farmers, agribusinesses, cooperatives, extension officers, local partners or other relevant stakeholders.

During this phase, the program will provide **mentoring** to the SMEs. An Earth Observation/IoT expert from the KijaniSpace project will be assigned to each startup and will follow the development. The mentor will provide advice and technical assistance to the SMEs. In particular, we will provide assistance with the integration with the Space-IoT Box and other Copernicus services. The SMEs will be able to meet with mentors on a need-basis.

By the end of the program, the innovation experiments are expected to reach **Technology Readiness Level 7 (TRL 7)**. In practical terms, this means that each selected SME or start-up should be able to demonstrate a working prototype of its improved product, service or application in a real or realistic operating environment.

The following Table shows the planned meetings for this phase.

Support Category	Session / Activity	Suggested Duration
Product and market validation support	Validation planning and Feedback Collection	1 hour
	User and stakeholder feedback collection	
	Validation results review	1 hour (1 SME/day)
	Incorporate validation results	
Pitch and investment readiness support	Pitch structure and storytelling	1 hour
	Financial and funding readiness	1 hour
	Pitch deck preparation	
	Practice pitch and feedback session	1 hour (1 SME/day)

2.8. Phase 3 - Final showcase in Kenya

In phase 3, the aim will be to organise a vibrant Demo Day where one representative of the successful SMEs will be invited to participate. The Demo Day will be a great opportunity to present your company and your product to a wider audience composed of Innovators, investors and end-users. The location and colocation event will be announced at a later stage.

Additionally, the SMEs will be asked to provide a full report of their activities. The report includes:

- Report on the training phase,
- Report on the experiments and prototypes,
- Report on the Final showcase,
- Financial report.

2.9. Detailed timeline

The following Table shows the timeline for each phase.

Activity	Period
Call for applications	15 Sep 2026 – 8 Jan 2027
T0.1 Open call launch and dissemination	15 Sep 2026 – 16 Nov 2026
T0.2 Application screening and selection	17 Nov 2026 – 11 Dec 2026
T0.3 Onboarding and agreement signing	14 Dec 2026 – 8 Jan 2027

Phase 1: Training and business development support	11 Jan 2027 – 26 Feb 2027
T1.1: Technical training	11 Jan 2027 – 5 Feb 2027
T1.2: Business development support	19 Jan 2027 – 26 Feb 2027
Phase 2: Experiment planning and implementation	11 Jan 2027 – 19 May 2027
T2.1: Planning phase	11 Jan 2027 – 23 Jan 2027
T2.2: Implementation & coaching	25 Jan 2027 – 19 May 2027
T2.3: User testing & validation	1 Mar 2027 – 16 Apr 2027
Phase 3: Final showcase in Kenya & program closure	7 Jun 2027 – 30 Jun 2027
T3.1 Final showcase in Kenya	7 Jun 2027 – 11 Jun 2027
T3.2 Final reporting and documentation closure	14 Jun 2027 – 30 Jun 2027

Key dates:

- **Submission deadline: 15th November 2026**
- **Results announcement: 11th December 2026**
- **Program starts: 11th of January 2026**
- **Program ends: 30th of June 2026**

3. How to apply?

3.1. Application Requirements

To be considered for the program, SMEs should:

1. be **legally registered** with a valid certificate of registration within either Kenya, Tanzania or Uganda.
2. have a **physical address** in either Kenya, Tanzania or Uganda.
3. **complete application forms** & submit all documentation highlighted for upload in the application form.
4. Complete the application **before the deadline**.

It is important for SMEs to carefully review the specific eligibility criteria outlined in the call for applications. SMEs that fail to fulfil any of the criteria will automatically be disqualified.

3.2. Submission Process

Applicants are required to prepare the following documents as part of the submission process of this program:

1. **Certificate of Incorporation or Registration:** Proof of the hub's registration as a legal organisation in an African country.
2. **Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the team members:** CVs of team members who will be involved in the training and experiments.
3. **Proposal PDF:** description of your SME, your product and planned experiment

The proposal PDF is covering:

- SME presentation
- Problem being addressed
- Target users or customers
- Link between the solution and climate-smart agriculture
- Description of the current product, service or application
- Proposed innovation experiment
- Planned use of Space-IoT Box resources
- Expected improvement to the product, service or application
- Activities to be carried out during the program
- Expected outputs from the innovation experiment
- Budget estimate for implementation
- Support needed from the program

Applications will be submitted through the online submission form provided in the open call announcement. Applications submitted through any channel other than the official online submission form will not be accepted. The online form also includes a declaration of honour and ethics self-assessment.

Application form: [here](#)

Proposal template: [here](#)

Submission deadline: 16 November 2026

Official language: English

3.3. Evaluation and Selection Process

Applications will first be checked for completeness and eligibility. Eligible applications will then be evaluated by 4 evaluators (including 2 external evaluators) using the following evaluation criteria:

Excellence: Quality of the proposal, understanding of the open call, relevance of selected Copernicus services and Space-IoT Box tools and suitability for the selected region (30 points).

Impact: Expected contribution to KijaniSpace project objectives, relevance to climate-smart agriculture, expected value for users or stakeholders and potential for dissemination, communication and exploitation (30 points).

Implementation: Feasibility of the proposed activities, quality of the implementation plan, team capacity, budget realism, expected deliverables and ability to complete the experiment within the program period (30 points).

The evaluation process will produce a ranked list of proposals based on the scores received. In case of tied scores, a consensus meeting will be held to select the proposals for funding. Selected applicants will be contacted after the evaluation. Unsuccessful applicants will also be informed of the evaluation outcome.

3.4. OnBoarding and agreement signing

After the evaluation process, successful applicants will be contacted for onboarding. Participants will need to sign a dedicated Sub-Grant Agreement with the KijaniSpace project coordinator. Selected beneficiaries (in case of a team submission it's the lead organisation) will sign a dedicated Sub-Grant Agreement with the KijaniSpace project coordinator. The team will be required to sign a consortium declaration which will be attached to the annex to the sub-grant agreement.

4. Intellectual Property, Confidentiality and Data Protection

Applicants will identify any pre-existing products, services, data, tools, software, know-how or materials they bring into the program.

The applicant guidelines and sub-grant agreement will define the rules on intellectual property, data protection, confidentiality and liability.

Public communication materials will use approved non-confidential information, summaries, photos, screenshots, presentations or demonstration materials provided by the selected beneficiaries.

5. Contact

For questions about the open call, applicants may contact:

- Jan Macura
Plan4All: jan.macura@plan4all.eu
- Prince Banini
Waziup e.V.: prince.banini@waziup.org
- Website: <https://www.kijaninspace.eu/>