

Let's incubate resilience

Shine



APPLY
NOW!

In partnership with



“Knowledge becomes wisdom only after it has been put to good use.”

Mark Twain

Overview

Shine provides early-stage social entrepreneurs with a grant and access to Swiss Re business expertise, leadership and coaching to help them scale their initiatives for impact.

We strongly believe in the power of entrepreneurship to catalyse change and address societal challenges at scale. The Shine programme nurtures social entrepreneurs who offer innovative, market-based solutions to problems related to natural hazards, climate risk and healthcare access.

Since its inception in India in 2018, Shine has expanded to seven additional countries: Brazil, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America. In each country, we invite applications from founders of early-stage social enterprises who can demonstrate a holistic understanding of a specific challenge in one of our two focus areas and an innovative approach to addressing it.

The winning applicant undergoes an immersive learning programme, that brings them together with a diverse, skilled team of top talents from Swiss Re to develop a strategic, financially viable business plan. After the entrepreneur completes the programme's four modules over six months, the Swiss Re Foundation continues to support their progress in scaling up their solution and assessing their impact.

Shine is a remarkable opportunity for founders of social enterprises not only to realise their vision of a more resilient world, but also to grow professionally and personally.



What Shine offers to social innovators

- Hands-on support in developing a focused strategy and viable financial and execution plan
- Access to diverse experts from Swiss Re businesses and functions
- Business mentoring and leadership coaching to accelerate the professional and personal development of the enterprise founder(s)
- Financial grant of up to EUR 25 000 to scale the solution
- Connections and visibility in the social entrepreneurial ecosystem

Who should apply?

Focus areas

Applicants' impact areas must be aligned with one of the Swiss Re Foundation's strategic focus areas:

- Transformation to Net-Zero (renewable energy, afforestation, recycling etc)
- Healthy nutrition
- Access to health
- Climate-smart agriculture
- Disaster risk management

Innovation

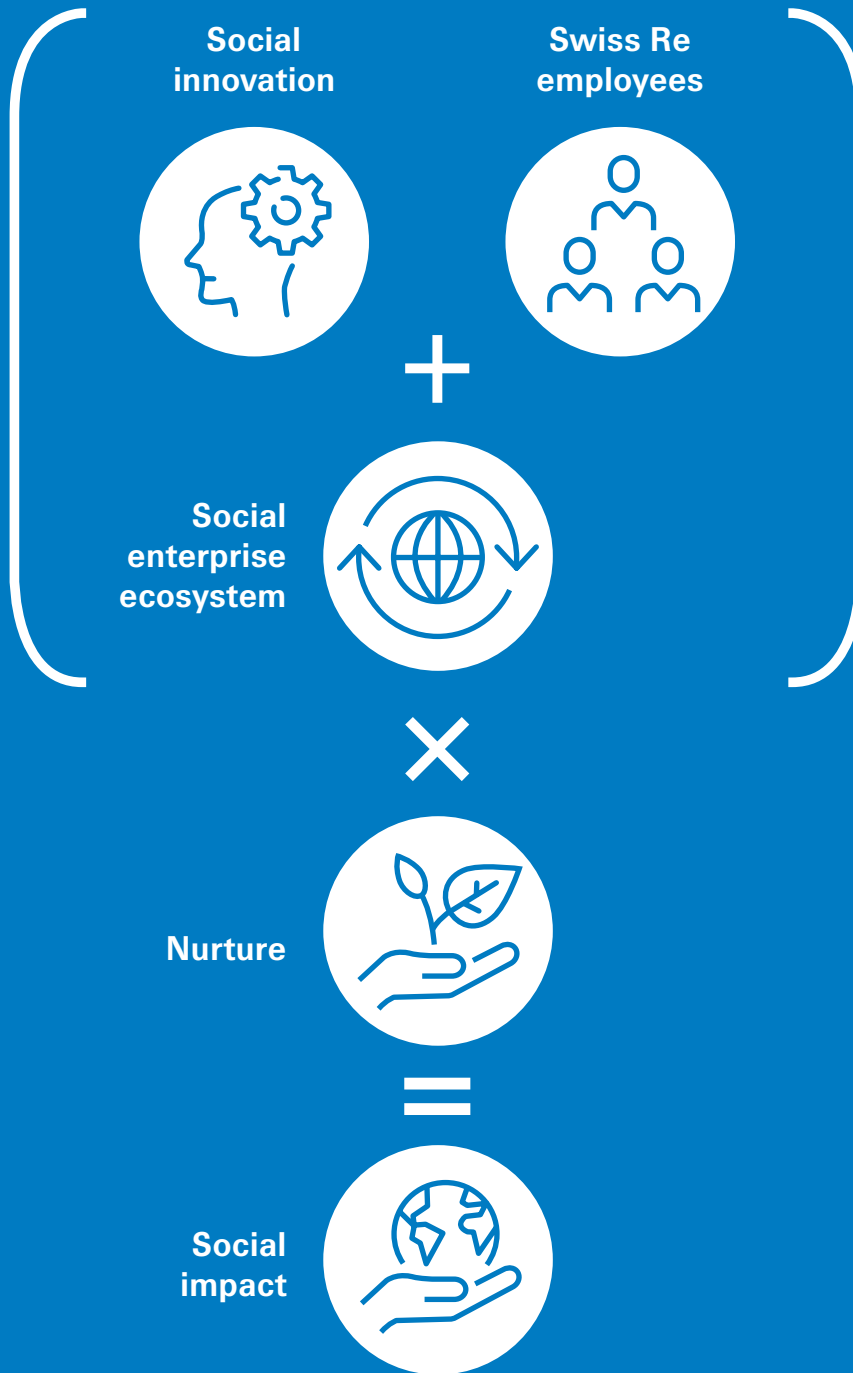
Applicants must display nuanced understanding of a social challenge in one of the focus areas and an innovative, scalable solution to addressing it.

Maturity

Applicants must be early-stage enterprises that have an established proof of concept for their solution and are looking to accelerate their growth.

Mission and purpose

Applicants must have a strong sense of purpose combined with an impact-focused mindset. They need to also have the willingness to take part in a learning programme that spans six months.

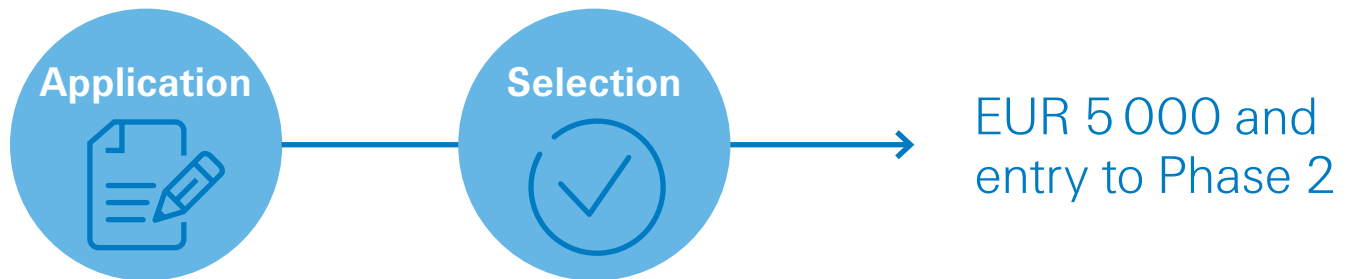


Program structure

Phase 1: Application process for selecting the social innovator

The submitted applications will be evaluated, and shortlisted entrepreneurs will be interviewed to select a winner who will enter the Action Learning Program along with a cohort of Swiss Re employees.

The winner will also receive the Shine Social Innovator Award including a grant of EUR 5 000.



Program structure

Phase 2: Action Learning Program

The social innovator will team up with Swiss Re employees and go through an accredited Action Learning Program facilitated in collaboration with our partner BOOKBRIDGE. During this immersive six-month journey, the innovator along with Swiss Re employees will together define problem areas for the business, engage with target communities, design and test solution prototypes and develop a viable business plan. They will then pitch this plan to the Shine panel of experts with the aim to earn an additional grant of EUR 20 000.

The cohort will be guided throughout this process by professional business and leadership coaches in an open workshop setting.



Program structure / Action Learning Program

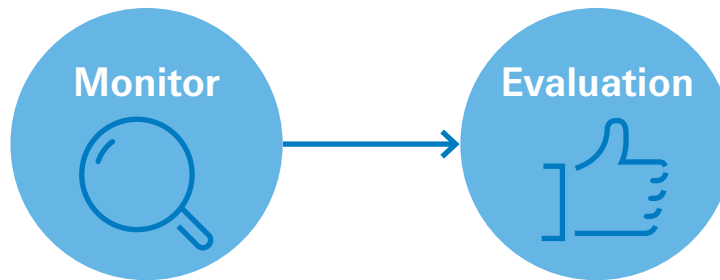
Module 1 (3 days) 4 – 6 September 2024	Module 2 (5 days) 30 October – 4 November 2024	Module 3 (3 days) 27 – 29 November 2024	Module 4 (2 days) 16 – 17 January 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kick-off design sprint• Deep dive into business opportunities and challenges• Find your personal purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet and empathize with target communities• Work on business Model, impact chain• Define team's purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pitch final business model to the jury• Create implementation plan• Reflect on working of self-organized team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish governance model• Share lessons learnt• Transfer learnings

- The modules span 13 working days in a (virtual or in-person) workshop setting. Travel (minimal, if required) would be additional.
- Between modules, the team is expected to spend 3–5 hours weekly on virtual teamwork.

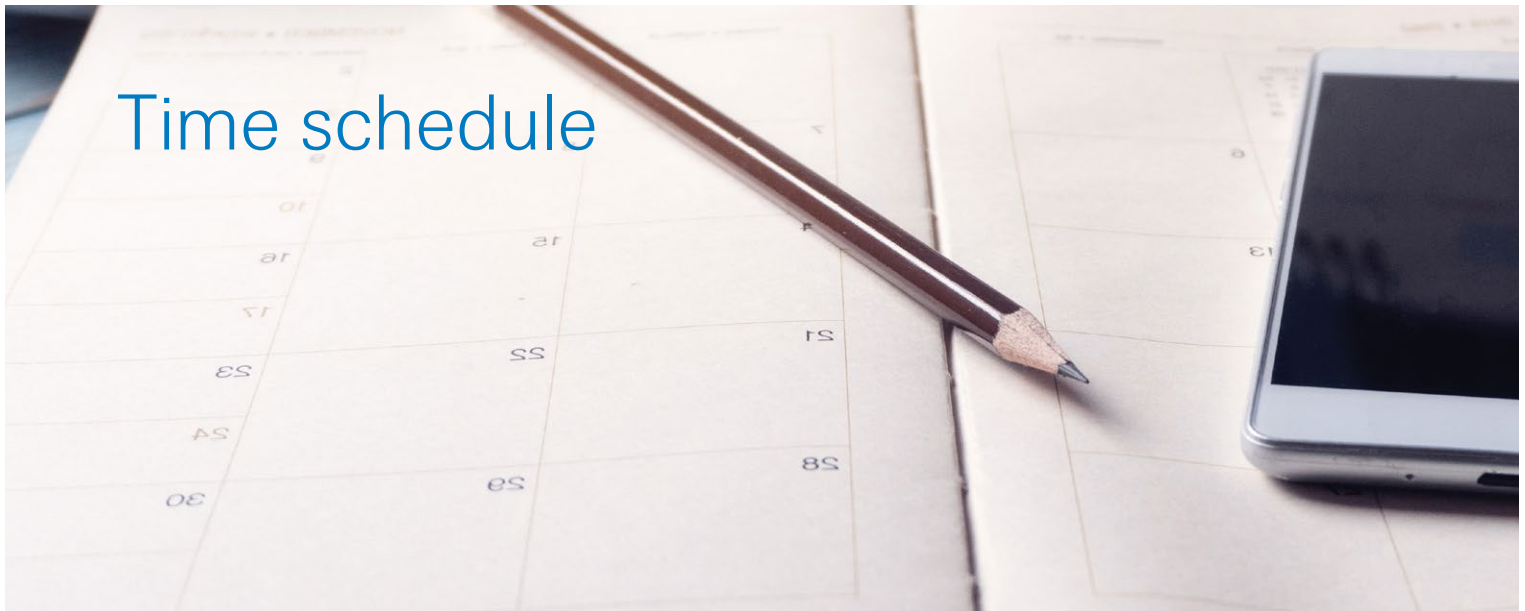
Phase 3

Phase 3: Impact monitoring

The Swiss Re Foundation will monitor the progress, impact and sustainability of the social enterprise for a period of two years after the Action Learning Program phase to ensure stability and growth.



Time schedule





How to apply

Please fill in the [application form](#) and we will get back to you.

About



Pontis Foundation (Outreach partner)

Pontis Foundation is one of the largest foundations in Slovakia, which brings together companies, non-governmental organisations, state institutions, communities and individuals to make positive changes in education, responsible entrepreneurship and social innovations.

[Read more](#)



BOOKBRIDGE (Learning partner)

BOOKBRIDGE believes in a world where people do what they really are. We empower people to become self-confident, responsible citizens by running experiential learning programs which result in the set-up of sustainable social enterprises.

[Read more](#)



Swiss Re
Foundation

Swiss Re Foundation (Program sponsor)

The Swiss Re Foundation reflects Swiss Re's social and humanitarian values. With our external partners and Swiss Re employees, we help strengthen resilience in targeted low-income communities and in communities near Swiss Re locations. To help build resilient societies, we offer our partners tailored grant financing, access to expertise, research and capacity-building as well as collaborative networks to create measurable, lasting impacts at scale.

[Read more](#)

Contact us

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