

Sub-themes

The sub-themes, identified under thematic areas following Les Assises de la Recherche et de l'Innovation 2.0 held in January 2025, that will be considered for funding under this Call are as follows:

Blue and Green Innovation

1. Climate resistant and sustainable measures (nature-based solutions) for protection of beaches against erosion
2. Value-adding and developing innovative solutions to food waste for bioenergy, aquaculture, fertilizers, and animal feed
3. Innovative solutions for sustainable energy transition
4. Innovative sustainable research measures to enhance nutritional quality and food security through improved soil and crop management, and nutrition sensitive Agriculture
5. Development of new technologies and practices to improve water management and access

Creative Industry and e-Innovation

1. Capacity Building in Creative Technologies & Emerging Digital Technologies to enhance content creation skills
2. Creative Technology Integration: Multimedia Production and Digital Animation
3. Investigate and identify mismatch between the community of artists and technology with a view to bridge the gap.
4. Digital Transformation of Arts and Cultural Heritage
5. Digital Technologies and Game Development Technologies
6. Setting-up of a Creative Innovation Lab to promote creative and digital technologies

Supplementary information the Sub-theme 6 of Creative and e-Innovation:

The Creative Innovation Lab seeks to incentivize stakeholders from all cultural and creative sectors - in collaboration with researchers - to promote and harness creative and digital technologies for the development of the local cultural and creative sectors, more particularly the audio-visual industry and game design & development. The Lab will facilitate among other things: (a) exposure to latest developments and trends in creative and digital technologies; (b) capacity-building and skills transfer; (c) the creation of innovative solutions (e.g. tools and the design and conduct of experiments and Proof of Concepts). Solutions should be easily replicable and have commercial applications.

Health Innovation

1. Addressing health challenges in Mauritius including ageing, chronic diseases, infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance
2. Addressing the impact of tourism and climate change on health
3. Innovation to promote the healthcare sector as an accelerator for economic growth

Precision Engineering & Manufacturing Innovation

1. AI-driven automation and robotics for precision manufacturing.
2. Advanced and sustainable materials for high-value manufacturing
3. Precision Engineering for High-Performance Systems

Rodrigues Innovation¹

1. Enhancing Climate Resilience and Economic Prosperity through Blue and Green Innovation
2. Advancing Holistic Well-being and Economic diversification through Health and Wellness/Tourism Innovation
3. Advancing Social and Grassroot Innovation for inclusive growth and a Healthy Rodriguan Society

Financial Innovation

1. Intelligent Cash/Wealth Management
2. Digital Customer Onboarding
3. Capital Market Operations
4. Insurance Operational Improvements

Supplementary Information on Financial Innovation Sub-themes:

1. *Intelligent Cash/Wealth Management*

Intelligent cash/wealth management technology-based platforms are involved in the management of cash. Solutions focused on companies may support the company's treasury functions with making investments, improving working capital management, invoice management etc. Solutions focused on individuals may involve supporting clients to understand their expenditure, how much money they can afford to save and then recommending saving / investment products.

Individual-oriented solutions could include saving tools to support individuals to save more. Examples of saving tools include apps that enable users to save for specific items, or tools that round up payments made with the difference being put into a savings account.

¹ For Rodrigues Innovation, eligibility is restricted to entities operating in Rodrigues.

Projects proposals in this priority area should aim to encourage development of platforms and solutions that offer versatility in addressing cash/wealth management.

2. *Digital Customer Onboarding*

Digital Customer Onboarding solutions support financial institutions to speed up or improve the process of acquiring new customers or subscribing new users to their services. This could include automating parts of the process, using alternative methods to collect customer information or using alternative data sources to verify the customer identity. An effective digital onboarding process has several key characteristics: simplicity, customer-centricity, security, and speed. It often involves integrating automated workflows, ensuring seamless document approval processes, and reducing the number of manual interventions.

Project proposals in this priority area should be designed with an emphasis on the development of technology-based solutions.

3. *Capital Market Operations*

The Capital Markets sector is essential for economic growth, yet may face challenges in liquidity, accessibility and transparency. FinTech has the potential to transform this sector by reducing transaction costs and increasing access for smaller investors. Technology can improve market efficiency, enhance transparency and facilitate faster, more secure transactions. This democratisation of capital markets can increase participation and liquidity, making the markets more dynamic and inclusive, ultimately contributing to a healthier, more resilient financial ecosystem. Innovative proposals would help in driving innovation in FinTech that can enhance the accessibility and efficiency of capital markets.

Project proposals in this priority area should focus on the use technology in developing tools to improve the efficiency of capital market operations. Examples include tools that automate part of the listing process or tools that enabling trades to be executed faster.

4. *Insurance Operational Improvements*

Insurance companies that do not focus strongly on operational efficiency run the risk of becoming non-competitive from either a pricing or profitability perspective, and could fail to deliver the experience customers, agents and brokers expect. Operators in this area provide services to insurance companies to help them either reduce costs, increase efficiency or increase revenue. For example, new capabilities can be created by applying automation (including through the use of Artificial Intelligence) to policy intake, claims and other areas, and then leveraging those improvements across the company.

Project proposals in this priority area should support the development of services that bring improvements to insurance operations.