



# **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

The Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance 2014-2015

## **Civil Society Facility 2014 and 2015**

# **Guidelines for grant applicants**

**Reference:** EuropeAid/137-042/DD/ACT/BA

**Budget line: BGUE-B2014-22.020401-C4-ELARG**

Deadline for submission of Concept notes: 02/06/2015 at 16:00 hrs

**This Call for Proposals is launched with the suspension clause which means that no contracts will be signed until Framework Agreement for IPA II comes into force.**

## **NOTICE**

This is a restricted Call for Proposals. In the first instance, only Concept Notes must be submitted for evaluation. Thereafter, applicants who have been pre-selected will be invited to submit a Full Application Form. After the evaluation of the Full Applications, an eligibility check will be performed for those which have been provisionally selected. Eligibility will be checked on the basis of the supporting documents requested by the Contracting Authority and the signed 'Declaration by the Applicant' sent together with the application.

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## 1. CIVIL SOCIETY FACILITY 2014-2015

### 1.1. BACKGROUND

The strengths and weaknesses of the Civil Society (CS) in BiH as well as the challenges faced by the CS in the specific context of the European integration have been recurrently analysed since 2008 when the European Commission (EC) set up the 'Civil Society Facility' (CSF) to financially support the development of civil society, while the EC enlargement strategy underlined the “importance of civil society being able to play its role in a participatory democracy”. Gaps and deficiencies in the legal framework both impact on the development of the sector and the prospects for success of interventions. The relationship between government and civil society has yet to be defined and operationalised particularly at higher levels. The engagement of civil society is limited and uneven. The domestic infrastructure to support civil society remains underdeveloped. Public awareness and the image of the sector need to be improved and deepened.

The EC BiH 2013 Progress report describes problems faced by the CS in BiH in the following terms<sup>1</sup>:

*”- Even though the cooperation with civil society at local level has improved, at the State, Entity and Cantonal levels it remains weak*

- *Institutional mechanisms for cooperation with civil society are not fully operational at Entity level and are lacking at State level.*
- *Transparency in the allocation of funds for civil society organisations needs to improve.*
- *Public consultations with civil society and other stakeholders on the environment and climate fields need to be further strengthened.”*

The CS is becoming increasingly assertive in expressing dissatisfaction with political developments<sup>2</sup>. A significant number of professional Civil Society Organisation (CSO)<sup>3</sup> does exist. Yet, due to the inconsistent CSO registration procedures and the absence of a single register of CSOs, the overall number of CSOs operating in BiH can only be estimated (i.e. 12,000 registered CSO)<sup>4</sup>.

Over the recent years, the EC has adopted a shift in the methodology for assessing Political criteria for accession, including in relation to the involvement of the CS. The EC has increased focus on civil society as a way to meet the key challenges in bringing about functioning democratic institutions.

The EU focus on civil society development in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been on:

- Improvement of transparency in funding CSOs from public budgets
- Improvement of cooperation between municipal governments and CSOs
- Improvement of cooperation among CSOs.
- Establishment of institutional mechanisms for cooperation with civil society in the governments of the state, entities, and Brcko District.
- Regional cooperation among CSOs.

The BiH CSF is designed to impact on several sectors and/or priorities. The present Action is intended to contribute to the following priorities:

- Rule of law and fundamental rights - Fight against corruption:
- Competitiveness and innovation, local development strategies – Strengthen the development of SMEs / education, employment, entrepreneurship and social policies.
- Fundamental rights: support to networking of CSOs in areas of journalism and human rights concerning the right to a free access to information, freedom of expression, protection against violence and pressure.

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<sup>1</sup> BiH 2013 Progress report available at [http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key\\_documents/2013/package/ba\\_rapport\\_2013.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2013/package/ba_rapport_2013.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> E.g. Delays in adopting the law on a Single Reference Number <<http://www.kronauerconsulting.com/download/analiza-en.pdf>>

<sup>3</sup> CSOs being understood as all non-state, not-for-profit structures in which people organise to pursue shared objectives and ideals - Definition from COM(2012) 492 final

<sup>4</sup> BiH 2013 Progress report available at [http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key\\_documents/2013/package/ba\\_rapport\\_2013.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2013/package/ba_rapport_2013.pdf)

The Civil Society Facility for Bosnia and Herzegovina will also support Inclusion of CSOs into the decision-making, including capacity building of public institutions to engage civil society in policy dialogue, a support to social dialogue and social partners as well as strengthening domestic election monitoring capacities. All these will be implemented through separate procurement processes.

## **1.2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME AND PRIORITY ISSUES**

**The global objective** of this Call for Proposals is: A more dynamic civil society actively participating in public debate on democracy, human rights, social inclusion and the rule of law and with capacity to influence policy and decision making processes.

The **specific objectives** of this Call for Proposals are (**for lot 1 - Education**):

To support networking in:

1. Strengthen links between sectors of education, labour and economy improved employability of labour force enabled by education and training of adults in line with the requirements of the labour market
2. Support the development of adult education and training system in BiH in the context of lifelong learning
3. Strengthening of human capacities in sectors of education, labour, employment and employers in: strategic planning, development of standards for adult education, training provision, certification of adults, monitoring and evaluation of adult education in BiH, and adequate identification of training needs.

The **specific objective** of this Call for Proposals is (**for lot 2 – Environment**):

To support networking in contributing directly to the implementation of the EU environmental standards, notably in areas such as climate change, water, air, soil, noise, chemicals, environment and health, waste and natural resources, forests, nature protection and innovation.

The **specific objective** of this Call for Proposals is (**for lot 3 – Entrepreneurship**):

To support networking in reduction of unemployment through enhancement of cooperation among key stakeholders at local level and implementation of active labour market measures. To combat unemployment through support of rural development and increase of competitiveness of local economy.

The **specific objective** of this Call for Proposals is (**for lot 4 – Journalism and human rights**):

To support networking of CSOs' addressing the issues in areas of journalism and human rights concerning the right to a free access to information, freedom of expression, protection against violence and pressure.

The **specific objective** of this Call for Proposals is (**for lot 5 – Anti-corruption**):

Support Civil society organisations and business associations in addressing corruption by developing and implementing anti-corruption measures clearly linked with public sector anti-corruption strategies and Action plans.

## **1.3 FINANCIAL ALLOCATION PROVIDED BY THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY**

The overall indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals is € 1.9 million. The Contracting Authority reserves the right not to award all available funds.

**Indicative allocation of funds by lot:**

**Lots (Minimum one grant is foreseen per lot for Lots 1-4 and two to five grants for Lot 5)**

**Lot 1: Education (EUR 325,000)**

**Lot 2: Environment (EUR 325,000)**

**Lot 3: Entrepreneurship, rural development and agriculture. (EUR 325,000)**

**Lot 4: Journalism and human rights concerning the right to a free access to information, free speech, protection against violence and pressure. (EUR 325,000)**

**Lot 5: Anti-corruption (EUR 600,000)**

If the allocation indicated for a specific lot cannot be used due to insufficient quality or number of proposals received, the Contracting Authority reserves the right to reallocate the remaining funds to another lot.

## Size of grants

Any grant requested under this Call for Proposals must fall between the following minimum and maximum amounts:

### Lot: 1-4

- **Minimum amount: 150,000 EUR**
- **Maximum amount: 250,000 EUR**

### Lot 5:

- **Minimum amount: 120,000 EUR**
- **Maximum amount: 300,000 EUR**

Any grant requested under this Call for Proposals must fall between the following [minimum and] maximum percentages of total eligible costs of the action:

- Minimum percentage: 50 % of the total eligible costs of the action.
- Maximum percentage 90 % of the total eligible costs of the action (see also Section 2.1.5).

The balance (i.e. the difference between the total cost of the action and the amount requested from the Contracting Authority) must be financed from sources other than the European Union Budget or the European Development Fund<sup>5</sup>.

## 2. RULES FOR THIS CALL FOR PROPOSALS

These guidelines set out the rules for the submission, selection and implementation of the actions financed under this Call, in conformity with the Practical Guide, which is applicable to the present call (available on the Internet at this address: <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/document.do?locale=en> ).

### 2.1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

There are three sets of eligibility criteria, relating to:

(1) the actors:

- The **applicant**, i.e. the entity submitting the application form (2.1.1),
- if any, its **co-applicant(s)** (**where it is not specified otherwise the applicant and its co-applicant(s) are hereinafter jointly referred as the "applicants"**) (2.1.1),
- and, if any, **affiliated entity(ies)** to the applicant and/or to a co-applicant(s). (2.1.2);

(2) the actions:

Actions for which a grant may be awarded (2.1.4);

(3) the costs:

- types of cost that may be taken into account in setting the amount of the grant (2.1.5).

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<sup>5</sup> Where a grant is financed by the European Development Fund, any mention of European Union financing must be understood as referring to European Development Fund financing.

### **2.1.1. Eligibility of applicants (i.e. applicant and co-applicant(s))**

#### **Applicant**

(1) In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant must:

- be a legal person **and**
- be non-profit-making **and**
- be non-governmental organisations, **and**
- be established in a Member State of the European Union or a country that is a beneficiary of the Council Regulation (EC) N° 231/2014, of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014, establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II): (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia); a country that is a beneficiary of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI): (Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, the Republic of Moldova, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine); European Economic Area (Lichtenstein, Iceland, Norway); countries for which reciprocal access to external assistance is established by the Commission **and**
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary **and**

In addition to the categories referred to in section 2.1.1, the following are however also eligible: **The education institutions including secondary schools and universities and other certified educational institutions. The educational institutions must be registered and acknowledged by relevant authority as an institution providing education and training and must be non-profit making.**

(2) The potential applicant may not participate in calls for proposals or be awarded grants if it is in any of the situations listed in Section 2.3.3 of the Practical Guide;

In Part A, section 3 of the grant application form ('Declaration by the applicant'), the applicant must declare that the applicant himself, the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies) are not in any of these situations.

The applicant may act individually or with co-applicant(s).

If awarded the Grant contract, the applicant will become the Beneficiary identified as the Coordinator in annex E3h1 (Special Conditions). The Coordinator is the main interlocutor of the Contracting Authority. It represents and acts on behalf of any other co-beneficiary (if any) and coordinate the design and implementation of the Action.

#### **Co-applicant(s)**

Co-applicant(s) participate in designing and implementing the action, and the costs they incur are eligible in the same way as those incurred by the applicant.

Co-applicant(s) must satisfy the eligibility criteria as applicable to the applicant himself.

In addition to the categories referred to in section 2.1.1, the following are however also eligible: The education institutions including secondary schools and universities and other certified educational

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\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with *UNSCR 1244/1999* and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

institutions. The educational institutions must be registered and acknowledged by relevant authority as an institution providing education and training and must be non-profit making.

Co-applicant(s) must sign the Mandate in Part B section 4 of the grant application form.

If awarded the Grant contract, the co-applicant(s)(if any) will become beneficiaries in the Action (together with the Coordinator).

### **2.1.2. *Affiliated entities***

Affiliated entity(ies)

The applicant and its co-applicant(s) may act with affiliated entity(ies)

**Only the following entities may be considered as affiliated entities to the applicant and/or to co-applicant(s):**

Only entities having a structural link with the applicants, in particular a legal or capital link.

This structural link encompasses mainly two notions:

- (i) Control, as defined in Directive 2013/34/EU on the annual financial statements, consolidated financial statements and related reports of certain types of undertakings:

Entities affiliated to a beneficiary may hence be:

- Entities directly or indirectly controlled by the beneficiary (daughter companies or first-tier subsidiaries). They may also be entities controlled by an entity controlled by the beneficiary (granddaughter companies or second-tier subsidiaries) and the same applies to further tiers of control;
  - Entities directly or indirectly controlling the beneficiary (parent companies). Likewise, they may be entities controlling an entity controlling the beneficiary;
  - Entities under the same direct or indirect control as the beneficiary (sister companies).
- (ii) Membership, i.e. the beneficiary is legally defined as a e.g. network, federation, association in which the proposed affiliated entities also participate or the beneficiary participates in the same entity (e.g. network, federation, association) as the proposed affiliated entities.

The structural link shall as a general rule be neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation. This means that the link would exist independently of the award of the grant; it should exist before the call for proposals and remain valid after the end of the action.

By way of exception, an entity may be considered as affiliated to a beneficiary even if it has a structural link specifically established for the sole purpose of the implementation of the action in the case of so-called “sole applicants” or “sole beneficiaries”. A sole applicant or a sole beneficiary is an entity formed by several entities (a group of entities) which together comply with the criteria for being awarded the grant. For example, an association is formed by its members.

#### What is not an affiliated entity?

The following are not considered entities affiliated to a beneficiary:

- Entities that have entered into a (procurement) contract or subcontract with a beneficiary, act as concessionaires or delegates for public services for a beneficiary,
- Entities that receive financial support from the beneficiary,
- Entities that cooperate on a regular basis with the beneficiary on the basis of a memorandum of understanding or share some assets,

- Entities that have signed a consortium agreement under the grant contract.

#### How to verify the existence of the required link with the beneficiary?

The affiliation resulting from control may in particular be proved on the basis of the consolidated accounts of the group of entities the beneficiary and its proposed affiliates belong to.

The affiliation resulting from membership may in particular be proved on the basis of the statutes or equivalent act establishing the entity (network, federation, association) which the beneficiary constitutes or in which the beneficiary participates.

If the applicants are awarded a contract, their affiliated entity(ies) will not become Beneficiary(ies) of the Action and signatory(ies) of the Contract. However, they will participate in the design and in the implementation of the Action and the costs they incur (including those incurred for Implementation Contracts and Financial Support to third parties) may be accepted as eligible costs, provided they comply with all the relevant rules already applicable to the Beneficiary(ies) under the Grant Contract.

Affiliated entity(ies) must satisfy the same eligibility criteria as the applicant and the co-applicant(s). They must sign the affiliated entity(ies) statement in Part B section 5 of the grant application form.

In addition to the categories referred to in section 2.1.1, the following are however also eligible: The education institutions including secondary schools and universities and other certified educational institutions. The educational institutions must be registered and acknowledged by relevant authority as an institution providing education and training and must be non-profit making.

### ***2.1.3. Associates and Contractors***

The following entities are not applicant(s) nor affiliated entity(ies) and do not have to sign the "mandate" or "affiliated entities' statement":

- Associates

Other organisations may be involved in the action. Such associates play a real role in the action but may not receive funding from the grant, with the exception of per diem or travel costs. Associates do not have to meet the eligibility criteria referred to in section 2.1.1. Associates must be mentioned in Part B section 6 — 'Associates of the Applicant participating in the Action' — of the Grant Application Form.

- Contractors

The grant beneficiaries and their affiliated entities are permitted to award contracts. Associates or affiliated entity(ies) cannot be also contractors in the project. Contractors are subject to the procurement rules set out in Annex IV to the standard grant contract.

### ***2.1.4. Eligible actions: actions for which an application may be made***

Definition:

An action is composed of a set of activities.

#### Duration

The initial planned duration of an action may not be lower than 24 months nor exceed 48 months for **lots 1-4** and 24-36 months for **lot 5**.

#### Location

Actions must take place in one Bosnia and Herzegovina

## Sectors or themes

### Lot 1: Education

This lot focuses on lifelong learning, i.e. adult education and training, which is still not acknowledged as an equally important segment in the overall education system in entire BiH. BiH does not yet have an adult learning strategy or a lifelong learning strategy; however, many issues and strategic challenges in the field of adult education and training are addressed by other strategies, including: the Mid-term Development Strategy (PRSP) 2004-2007; the BiH VET Development Strategy 2007-2013; the Strategic Direction for BiH Education 2008-15;

#### Types of action:

1. Support the reform of the adult education and training through development and implementation of new training programmes and adjustment of current training programmes (curricula, modules, courses, and similar) for adult education and training, in the context of lifelong learning.
2. Strengthening human resources capacities through development and implementation of training programmes for students of teaching faculties, teachers, pedagogues, employees in education agencies and ministries, education institutes, and employment institutions, as well as all other individuals taking part in training of adults.
3. Support the implementation of the Basic Qualifications Framework for BiH through development of pilot projects for improvement of systems for cooperation and/or networking of institutions and partners involved in the adult education and training and employment in order to improve the status of the informal and non-formal education.

#### The following are suggested activities but not exhaustive:

Types of activities (the list is not exhaustive)

- Organisation of workshops, seminars, and working meetings, to develop modules of curricula, recommendations, and documents;
- Organisation of conferences, round table discussions, and debates;
- Advocating the introduction of new policies, strategies, new bodies for cooperation between sectors, and similar;
- Public promotional campaigns for adult education and raising awareness about lifelong learning;
- Development of guidelines and of proposals for changes to legislation;
- Monitoring and evaluation of activities relevant to this Call for Proposals;
- Publication of documents, recommendations, monitoring reports;
- Publication of leaflets, manuals, best practices and that alike.

### Lot 2: Environment

Projects should be focussed and contain a mix of activities that together will have a sustainable institutional building effect. Successful projects are the result of careful preparation and good co-operation between the Applicant and eventual Co-Applicant(s).

#### Types of action:

- Communication and awareness raising campaigns on environmental, nature protection or biodiversity conservation issues, as well as projects related to forest fire prevention (awareness raising, special training)
- Projects that contribute to the implementation of EU environmental policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina:
  - Development of innovative policy approaches, technologies, methods and instruments;
  - Monitoring of environmental factors and their impact on air quality, climate change, water resources, etc.

- Best practice or demonstration projects that contribute to the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Projects that contribute to a sustainable management of solid waste, with an emphasis on recycling.

The following are suggested activities but not exhaustive:

- Analyses of available information on state of the environment in BiH
- Identify sources of information incl. policy decision making institutions, academic institutions, international organisations, etc.
- Establish network to strengthen lobbying on decision makers and develop lobby strategies.
- Prioritize activities for campaigning.
- Develop campaign strategies.
- Implement campaigns.
- Monitor campaigns, evaluate and prepare information for follow up events.
- Identify problems in funding situation and strategies for fund acquisition.
- Identify intelligent approaches and tools for fund acquisition.
- Prepare detailed strategies and action plans for fund acquisition.
- Monitor, evaluate, and update income and cash flow information in a systematic manner.

### **Lot 3: Entrepreneurship, rural development and agriculture**

Local potentials for employment are not sufficiently explored, although there are several positive cases of local employment initiatives. Municipalities often are not aware of what type of incentives can be offered in order to either attract new investments or expand the existing businesses. In addition, municipalities often do not know what they can offer to unemployed to create self-employment (usually limited to unused municipal land which is offered for agricultural activities). Projects should be focused on involvement of local governments on individual business development and clustering of small businesses in order to make them more competitive.

#### Types of action

This grant assistance is aimed at:

- Accelerating the provision of support and facilities to improve local employability in partnership with local actors
- Development of rural development policies.
- Assistance in clustering small producers and increasing their competitiveness in the market.
- Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector;
- Development of programme/s for use of unused land owned by municipality;
- Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy.

Furthermore, the provision of grants will improve cooperation among local key stakeholders (provision of incentives for employers, availability of good quality business support and advice, provision of re-training, development of municipal business investment plans, linking local actors with larger markets, etc.)

The final beneficiaries of the grants will be unemployed persons in targeted municipalities, who would directly benefit from the proposed actions. They must be clearly identified in project proposals, in terms of:

- Their indicative number (i.e. minimum to be set as compulsory, or maximum to be given as projection /target by the ultimate effects of proposed projects)
- Verifiable sources of information (i.e. available analyses, strategies/action plans, statistics, etc.)
- Their contribution to comparative advantages within tackled sectors/industries (i.e. export, job creation)

The following are suggested activities but not exhaustive

- Development of marketing strategy.
- Licensing of products.
- Establishment of strategic partnerships with a partner from the EU to support export of products.
- Establishment of cooperatives' network with local workshops (for production of specific parts for the final products).
- Clustering of individual producers.

- Added value chain development.

#### **Lot 4: Journalism and human rights concerning the right to a free access to information, free speech, protection against violence and pressure**

This lot emphasis journalism and advocating for defending the human rights, free access to information, free speech, and protection against violence and pressure.

##### Types of action

- Disadvantaged person's rights
- Workers' rights
- Prevention of torture and ill-treatment
- Gender equality (women's rights, women in decision-making, right to participate in peace-building and reconstruction processes; fight against violence and harmful practices, sexual and reproductive rights, etc.)
- Political representation of underrepresented groups
- Human rights defenders protection
- Combating violence against women
- Combating domestic violence

##### The following are suggested activities but not exhaustive

- promotion of the implementation of the adopted laws and regulations
- advocacy for the revision of the existing legislation and adoption of the new ones in accordance with the EU standards and requirements
- Establishment of dialogue with "political society" (e.g. with political parties, groups of parliamentarians or legislative bodies).
- Monitoring and reporting activities, for example in the context of the accession process, as well as in monitoring of implementation of international commitments and ratified human rights instruments.
- drafting of policy or legislation recommendations
- public awareness raising campaigns
- facilitating contact, consultation and discussion between different stakeholders
- organisation of conferences, roundtables, workshops and seminars

#### **Lot 5: Anti-Corruption (in particular in the area of health or education)**

*"Corruption remains a serious problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina's public sector. Governments have to strengthen their integrity frameworks to create an effective and accountable public sector and to enhance the prevention, detection and repression of corruption via relevant legislation, institutions and civil society partners" (BiH Country Strategy Paper 2014-2017).*

The beneficiaries of the grant will be Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) including business associations, and media associations. The CSOs will identify and implement anticorruption measures in line with public sector Anti-corruption strategies and Action plans.

When preparing a project proposal and doing analysis of the needs, CSO are to consult public sector institutions. However, due to potential conflict of interest public institutions such as Ministries and Agencies cannot be co-applicants in the project in terms of eligibility of costs. Also, when preparing project proposal, CSO are to take into account all on-going activities/projects related to fighting anticorruption.

##### Types of action

##### The following are suggested activities but not exhaustive:

- Gaps and need analysis on legal measures and level of public transparency
- Set up of monitoring structure to follow up reforms

- Define and propose recommendations for systematic improvements in the legal and institutional framework for increasing transparency of the public institutions.
- Institutional gap analysis and investigation regarding corruption.
- Activities that seek greater civic education, CSOs advocacy and increased participation in the decision-making process, and better dissemination of information (i.e. public debates, workshops).
- Information campaigns for citizens, CSOs and media
- Upgrading existing information systems and public institutions' relations with the public, including website and database to facilitate the dissemination of information.
- Training related to improving CSOs operational capacity, awareness functions and networking, capacity to conduct investigating journalism, detect organised crime and corruption, and provide legal advice.

**Following types of action are ineligible (for all lots):**

- actions concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences and congresses;
- actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses;
- actions taking place outside Bosnia and Herzegovina
- purchasing of vehicles
- retrospective financing for projects already in existence or completed
- projects for the exclusive benefit of individuals or exclusive restricted groups of individuals
- projects supporting individual political parties
- core funding of the applicant or its co-applicants
- humanitarian activities

**Financial support to third parties<sup>6</sup> (only applicable for lots: 1,2,3, and 4)**

Applicants may propose financial support to third parties.

The maximum amount of financial support per third party is less than € 60 000 and should not be the main purpose of the action.

In compliance with the present guidelines and notably of any conditions or restrictions set above, applicants should define mandatorily in section 2.1.1 of the grant application form:

- (i) the objectives and results to be obtained with the financial support
- (ii) the different types of activities eligible for financial support, on the basis of a fixed list
- (iii) the types of persons or categories of persons which may receive financial support
- (iv) the criteria for selecting these entities and giving the financial support
- (v) the criteria for determining the exact amount of financial support for each third entity, and
- (vi) the maximum amount which may be given

**Visibility**

The Applicants must take all necessary steps to publicise the fact that the European Union has financed or co-financed the Action. As far as possible, actions that are wholly or partially funded by the European Union must incorporate information and communication activities designed to raise the awareness of specific or general audiences of the reasons for the action and the EU support for the action in the country or region concerned, as well as the results and the impact of this support.

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<sup>6</sup> These third parties are neither affiliated entity(ies) nor associates nor contractors.

Applicants must comply with the objectives and priorities and guarantee the visibility of the EU financing (see the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU external actions specified and published by the European Commission at [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/visibility/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/visibility/index_en.htm)).

### **Number of applications and grants per applicants**

The applicant may submit more than 1 application under this Call for Proposals.

The applicant may not be awarded more than 1 grant under this Call for Proposals.

The applicant may be a co-applicant or an affiliated entity in another application at the same time.

A co-applicant/affiliated entity may submit more than 1 application under this Call for Proposals.

A co-applicant/affiliated entity may not be awarded more than 1 grant under this Call for Proposals.

A co-applicant/affiliated entity may be the applicant or an affiliated entity in another application at the same time.

### ***2.1.5. Eligibility of costs: costs that can be included***

Only 'eligible costs' can be covered by a grant. The categories of costs that are eligible and non-eligible are indicated below. The budget is both a cost estimate and an overall ceiling for 'eligible costs'.

The reimbursement of eligible costs may be based on any or a combination of the following forms:

- actual costs incurred by the Beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies)
- one or more simplified cost options.

Simplified cost options may take the form of:

- **unit costs:** covering all or certain specific categories of eligible costs which are clearly identified in advance by reference to an amount per unit.
- **lump sums:** covering in global terms all or certain specific categories of eligible costs which are clearly identified in advance.
- **flat-rate financing:** covering specific categories of eligible costs which are clearly identified in advance by applying a percentage fixed ex ante.

The amounts or rates have to be based on estimates using objective data such as statistical data or any other objective means or with reference to certified or auditable historical data of the applicants or the affiliated entity(ies). The methods used to determine the amounts or rates of unit costs, lump sums or flat-rates must comply with the criteria established in Annex K, and especially ensure that the costs correspond fairly to the actual costs incurred by the Grant Beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies), are in line with their accounting practices, no profit is made and the costs are not already covered by other sources of funding (no double funding). Refer to Annex K for directions and a checklist of controls to assess the minimum necessary conditions that provide reasonable assurance for the acceptance of the proposed amounts.

The applicant proposing this form of reimbursement, must clearly indicate in worksheet no.1 of Annex B, each heading/item of eligible costs concerned by this type of financing, i.e. add the reference in capital letters to "UNIT COST" (per month/flight etc), "LUMPSUM" or "FLAT RATE" in the Unit column. (see example in Annex K)

Additionally in Annex B, in the second column of worksheet no.2, "Justification of the estimated costs" per each of the corresponding budget item or heading the applicant must:

- describe the information and methods used to establish the amounts of unit costs, lump sums and/or flat-rates, to which costs they refer, etc.

- clearly explain the formulas for calculation of the final eligible amount<sup>7</sup>
- identify the beneficiary who will use the simplified cost option (in case of affiliated entity, specify first the beneficiary), in order to verify the maximum amount per each beneficiary (which includes if applicable simplified cost options of its affiliated entity(ies))

At contracting phase, the Contracting Authority decides whether to accept the proposed amounts or rates on the basis of the provisional budget submitted by the applicant, by analysing factual data of grants carried out by the applicant or of similar actions and by performing checks established by Annex K.

The total amount of financing on the basis of simplified cost options that can be authorised by the Contracting Authority for any of the applicants individually (including simplified cost options proposed by their own affiliated entities) cannot exceed EUR 60 000 (the indirect costs are not taken into account).

Recommendations to award a grant are always subject to the condition that the checks preceding the signing of the contract do not reveal problems requiring changes to the budget (such as arithmetical errors, inaccuracies, unrealistic costs and ineligible costs). The checks may give rise to requests for clarification and may lead the Contracting Authority to impose modifications or reductions to address such mistakes or inaccuracies. It is not possible to increase the grant or the percentage of EU co-financing as a result of these corrections.

It is therefore in the applicant's interest to provide a **realistic and cost-effective budget**.

#### Eligible direct costs

To be eligible under the Call for Proposals, costs must comply with the provisions of Article 14 of the General Conditions to the Standard Grant Contract (see Annex G of the Guidelines).

#### Contingency reserve

The budget may include a contingency reserve not exceeding 5 % of the estimated direct eligible costs. It can only be used with the **prior written authorisation** of the Contracting Authority.

#### Eligible indirect costs

The indirect costs incurred in carrying out the action may be eligible for flat-rate funding, but the total must not exceed 7 % of the estimated total eligible direct costs. Indirect costs are eligible provided that they do not include costs assigned to another budget heading in the standard grant contract. The applicant may be asked to justify the percentage requested before the contract is signed. However, once the flat rate has been fixed in the special conditions of the standard grant contract, no supporting documents need to be provided.

If any of the applicants or affiliated entity(ies) is in receipt of an operating grant financed by the EU, it may not claim indirect costs on its incurred costs within the proposed budget for the action.

#### Contributions in kind

Contributions in kind mean the provision of goods or services to a Beneficiary(ies) or affiliated entity(ies) free of charge by a third party. As contributions in kind do not involve any expenditure for a Beneficiary(ies) or affiliated entity(ies), they are not eligible costs.

Contributions in kind may not be treated as co-financing.

However, if the description of the action as proposed includes contributions in kind, the contributions have to be made.

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<sup>7</sup> Examples:- for staff costs: number of hours or days of work \* hourly or daily rate pre-set according to the category of personnel concerned;- for travel expenses: distance in km \* pre-set cost of transport per km; number of days \* daily allowance pre-set according to the country;- for specific costs arising from the organization of an event: number of participants at the event \* pre-set total cost per participant etc.

## Ineligible costs

The following costs are not eligible:

- Debts and debt service charges (interest);
- Provisions for losses or potential future liabilities;
- Costs declared by the Beneficiary(ies) and financed by another action or work programme receiving a Union (including through EDF) grant;
- Purchases of land or buildings,
- Currency exchange losses;
- Credit to third parties.
- Salary costs of the personnel of national administrations.
- Taxes, including value added tax.

## **2.2. HOW TO APPLY AND THE PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW**

Prior registration in PADOR for this Call for Proposals is obligatory.

- **Phase 1, concept note:** Registration in PADOR is obligatory for applicants.  
Registration is optional though strongly recommended for co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies).
- **Phase 2, full proposal:** Registration in PADOR is obligatory for all pre-selected applicants, co-applicant(s) and all their affiliated entity(ies).

PADOR is an on-line database in which organisations register and update their data regularly, through the EuropeAid website: [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/search/site/pador%20onlineservice\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/search/site/pador%20onlineservice_en)

Before starting to register your organisation in PADOR, please read the ‘Quick guide’ on the website. It explains the registration process.

It is strongly recommended to register in PADOR when you start drafting your proposal and not to wait until just before the deadline of submission.

On the paper version of the proposal you must give your EuropeAid ID (EID). To get this ID, your organisation must enter PADOR to register, save and ‘sign’ certain obligatory data (the fields shown in orange on each screen) and the related documents (see section 2.4).

However, if it is impossible for the organisation to register in PADOR, it must submit a justification proving that this impossibility is general and beyond the control of the applicant and/or its affiliated entity(ies). In such cases, the applicants and/or affiliated entity(ies) concerned must complete the ‘PADOR off-line form’<sup>8</sup> attached to these Guidelines and send it by the submission deadline, together with the application, to the address indicated in sections 2.2.2 and 2.2.6. The registration in PADOR will then be carried out by the European Commission service in charge of the Call for Proposals. If, at a later stage, the organisation wishes to update its data itself, it will have to send an access request to the PADOR helpdesk.

All questions related to registration in PADOR should be addressed to the PADOR helpdesk at: [Europeaid-pador@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Europeaid-pador@ec.europa.eu).

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<sup>8</sup> Which corresponds to Sections 3 and 4 of Part B of the application form.

### **2.2.1. Concept Note content**

Applications must be submitted in accordance with the Concept Note instructions in the Grant Application Form annexed to these Guidelines (Annex A).

#### **Applicants must apply in English.**

In the Concept Note, applicants must only provide an estimate of the amount of contribution requested from the Contracting Authority and an indicative percentage of that contribution in relation to the total amount of the Action. Only the applicants invited to submit a full application in the second phase will be required to present a detailed budget. The elements outlined in the Concept Note may not be modified by the applicant in the full application form. The EU contribution may not vary from the initial estimate by more than 20%. Applicants are free to adapt the percentage of co-financing required within the minimum and maximum amount and percentages of co-financing, as laid down in these Guidelines in section 1.3. Own contributions by the applicants can be replaced by other donors' contributions at any time.

Any error or major discrepancy related to the points listed in the Concept Note instructions may lead to the rejection of the Concept Note.

Clarifications will only be requested when information provided is not sufficient to conduct an objective assessment.

Hand-written Concept Notes will not be accepted.

Please note that only the Concept Note form will be evaluated. It is therefore of utmost importance that this document contains ALL relevant information concerning the action. No additional annexes should be sent.

### **2.2.2. Where and how to send Concept Notes**

The Concept Note together with its relating Checklist and Declaration by the applicant (to be found in **Part A sections 2 and 3** of the grant application form) must be submitted in one original and 2 copies in A4 size, each bound.

An electronic version of the Concept Note must also be submitted. A CD-Rom with the Concept Note in electronic format will be included, along with the paper version, in a sealed envelope as described below. The electronic file must contain **exactly the same** application as the paper version enclosed.

Where applicants send several different Concept Notes each one must be sent separately.

The outer envelope must bear the **reference number and the title of the call for proposals**, together with [the lot number and title] the full name and address of the applicant, and the words 'Not to be opened before the opening session' and "**Ne otvarati prije zvaničnog otvaranja**".

Concept Notes must be submitted in a sealed envelope by registered mail, private courier service or by hand-delivery (a signed and dated certificate of receipt will be given to the deliverer) to the address below:

Postal address:

Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Contract and Finance Section – Procurement  
Skenderija 3a, 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Concept Notes sent by any other means (e.g. by fax or by e-mail) or delivered to other addresses will be rejected.

**Applicants must verify that their Concept Note is complete using the Checklist for Concept Note (Part A section 2 of the grant application form). Incomplete concept notes may be rejected.**

### **2.2.3. Deadline for submission of Concept Notes**

The deadline for the submission of Concept Notes is **02/06/2015** as evidenced by the date of dispatch, the postmark or the date of the deposit slip. In the case of hand-deliveries, the deadline for receipt is at **16:00** hour's local time as evidenced by the signed and dated receipt. Any Concept Note submitted after the deadline will be rejected.

However, for reasons of administrative efficiency, the Contracting Authority may reject any Concept Note sent in due time but received after the effective date of approval of the Concept Note evaluation (see indicative calendar under section 2.5.2)

### **2.2.4. Further information about Concept Notes**

Questions may be sent by e-mail [or by fax] no later than 21 days before the deadline for the submission of Concept Notes to the address(es) below, indicating clearly the reference of the Call for Proposals:

E-mail address: [Delegation-BIH-Procurement@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Delegation-BIH-Procurement@eeas.europa.eu)

The Contracting Authority has no obligation to provide clarifications to questions received after this date.

Replies will be given no later than 11 days before the deadline for submission of Concept Notes.

To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the Contracting Authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of applicants, affiliated entity(ies), an action or specific activities.

Questions that may be relevant to other applicants, together with answers and other important notices in the course of the evaluation procedure, will be published on the EuropeAid website <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome> and <http://www.delbih.ec.europa.eu>, as the need arises. It is therefore advisable to consult the abovementioned website regularly in order to be informed of the questions and answers published.

All questions related to PADOR registration should be addressed to the PADOR help desk:

[Europeaid-pador@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Europeaid-pador@ec.europa.eu)

### **2.2.5. Full Application forms**

An applicant invited to submit a full application form following pre-selection of their Concept Note must do so using Part B of the application form annexed to these Guidelines (Annex A). Applicants should then keep strictly to the format of the application form and fill in the paragraphs and pages in order.

The elements outlined in the Concept Note cannot be modified by the applicant in the full application form. The EU contribution may not vary from the initial estimate by more than 20 %, although applicants are free to adapt the percentage of co-financing required within the minimum and maximum amount and percentages of co-financing, as laid down in these Guidelines under section 1.3.

Applicants must submit their full applications in the same language as their Concept Notes.

Please complete the full application form carefully and as clearly as possible so that it can be assessed properly.

Any error related to the points listed in the Checklist (Part B, Section 7 of the Grant Application form) or any major inconsistency in the full application form (e.g. if the amounts in the budget worksheets are inconsistent) may lead to the rejection of the application.

Clarifications will only be requested when information provided is unclear and thus prevents the Contracting Authority from conducting an objective assessment.

Hand-written applications will not be accepted.

Please note that only the full application form and the published annexes which have to be filled in (budget, logical framework) will be transmitted to the evaluators (and assessors, if used). It is therefore of utmost importance that these documents contain ALL the relevant information concerning the action. **No supplementary annexes should be sent.**

#### **2.2.6. Where and how to send Full Application forms**

Applications must be submitted in a sealed envelope by registered mail, private courier service or by hand-delivery (a signed and dated certificate of receipt will be given to the deliverer) to the address below:

##### **Postal address**

Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Contract and Finance Section – Procurement  
Skenderija 3a, 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Applications sent by any other means (e.g. by fax or by e-mail) or delivered to other addresses will be rejected.

Applications must be submitted in one original and 2 copies in A4 size, each bound. The full application form, budget and logical framework must also be supplied in electronic format (CD-Rom) in a separate and single file (i.e. the full application form must not be split into several different files). The electronic file must contain **exactly the same** application as the paper version.

The Checklist (Section 7 of Part B of the grant application form) and the Declaration by the applicant (Section 8 of Part B of the grant application form) must be stapled separately and enclosed in the envelope

Where applicants send several different applications each one must be sent separately.

The outer envelope must bear the **reference number and the title of the Call for Proposals**, together with the number and title of the lot, the full name and address of the applicant, and the words ‘Not to be opened before the opening session’ and “**Ne otvarati prije zvaničnog otvaranja**”.

**Applicants must verify that their application is complete using the checklist (Section 7 of Part B of the grant application form). Incomplete applications may be rejected.**

#### **2.2.7. Deadline for submission of Full Application forms**

The deadline for the submission of applications will be indicated in the letter sent to the applicants whose application has been pre-selected.

However, for reasons of administrative efficiency, the Contracting Authority may reject any application sent in due time but received after the date of approval of the evaluation report for full applications (see indicative calendar under Section 2.5.2)

#### **2.2.8. Further information about Full Application forms**

Questions may be sent by e-mail [or by fax] no later than 21 days before the deadline for the submission of applications to the addresses listed below, indicating clearly the reference of the Call for Proposals:

E-mail address: [Delegation-BIH-Procurement@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Delegation-BIH-Procurement@eeas.europa.eu)

The Contracting Authority has no obligation to provide clarifications to questions received after this date.

Replies will be given no later than 11 days before the deadline for the submission of applications.

To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the Contracting Authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of applicants, affiliated entity(ies), or an action.

No individual replies will be given to questions. All questions and answers as well as other important notices to applicants during the course of the evaluation procedure, will be published on the website <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome> and <http://www.delbih.ec.europa.eu>. It is therefore advisable to consult the abovementioned website regularly in order to be informed of the questions and answers published.

### 2.3. EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications will be examined and evaluated by the Contracting Authority with the possible assistance of external assessors. All actions submitted by applicants will be assessed according to the following steps and criteria.

If the examination of the application reveals that the proposed action does not meet the eligibility criteria stated in paragraph 2.1, the application will be rejected on this sole basis.

#### (1) STEP 1: OPENING & ADMINISTRATIVE CHECKS AND CONCEPT NOTE EVALUATION

The following will be assessed:

- Compliance with the submission deadline. If the deadline has not been met, the application will automatically be rejected.
- The Concept Note satisfies all the criteria specified in points 1-5 of the Checklist (Section 2 of Part A of the grant application form). If any of the requested information is missing or is incorrect, the application may be rejected on that sole basis and the application will not be evaluated further.

The Concept Notes that pass the first administrative check will be evaluated on the relevance and design of the proposed action.

The Concept Note will receive an overall score out of 50 using the breakdown in the evaluation grid below. The evaluation will also check on compliance with the instructions on the Concept Note, which can be found in Part A of the Application Form.

The evaluation criteria are divided into headings and subheadings. Each subheading will be given a score between 1 and 5 as follows: 1 = very poor; 2 = poor; 3 = adequate; 4 = good; 5 = very good.

#### Scores

1. Relevance of the action	Sub-score	30
1.1 How relevant is the proposal to the objectives and priorities of the Call for Proposals?*	5x2**	
1.2 How relevant to the particular needs and constraints of the target country(ies) or region(s) is the proposal (including synergy with other EU initiatives and avoidance of duplication)?	5x2*	
1.3 How clearly defined and strategically chosen are those involved (final beneficiaries, target groups)? Have their needs been clearly defined and does the proposal address them appropriately?	5	
1.4 Does the proposal contain specific added-value elements, such as environmental issues, promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities, needs of disabled people, rights of minorities and rights of indigenous peoples, or innovation and best practices.	5	

2. Design of the action	Sub-score	20
2.1 How coherent is the overall design of the action?  In particular, does it reflect the analysis of the problems involved, take into account external factors and relevant stakeholders?	5x2**	
2.2 Is the action feasible and consistent in relation to the objectives and expected results?	5x2**	

**TOTAL SCORE 50**

\* Note: A score of 5 (very good) will only be allocated if the proposal specifically addresses more than the required minimum number of priorities as indicated in Section 1.2 (Objectives of the programme) of these guidelines.

\*\*these scores are multiplied by 2 because of their importance

Once all Concept Notes have been assessed, a list will be drawn up with the proposed actions ranked according to their total score.

Firstly, only the Concept Notes with a score of at least 30 will be considered for pre-selection.

Secondly, the number of Concept Notes will be reduced, taking account of the ranking, to the number of Concept Notes whose total aggregate amount of requested contributions is equal to 200% of the available budget for this Call for Proposals. The amount of requested contributions of each concept note will be based on the indicative financial envelopes for each lot.

After the evaluation of Concept Notes, the Contracting Authority will send letters to all applicants, indicating whether their application was submitted by the deadline, informing them of the reference number they have been allocated, whether the Concept Note was evaluated and the results of that evaluation. The pre-selected applicants will subsequently be invited to submit full applications.

## (2) STEP 2: EVALUATION OF THE FULL APPLICATION

Firstly, the following will be assessed:

- Compliance with the submission deadline. If the deadline has not been met, the application will automatically be rejected.
- The full application form satisfies all the criteria specified in points 1-9 of the Checklist (Section 7 of Part B of the grant application form). If any of the requested information is missing or is incorrect, the application may be rejected on that **sole** basis and the application will not be evaluated further.

The quality of the applications, including the proposed budget and capacity of the applicants and affiliated entity(ies), will be evaluated using the evaluation criteria in the evaluation grid below. There are two types of evaluation criteria: selection and award criteria.

**The selection criteria** help to evaluate the applicant(s)'s and affiliated entity(ies)'s operational capacity and the applicant's financial capacity and to ensure that they:

- have stable and sufficient sources of finance to maintain their activity throughout the proposed action and, where appropriate, to participate in its funding;
- have the management capacity, professional competencies and qualifications required to successfully complete the proposed action. This also applies to any affiliated entity(ies) of the applicants.

**The award criteria** help to evaluate the quality of the applications in relation to the objectives and priorities, and to award grants to projects which maximise the overall effectiveness of the Call for Proposals. They help to select applications which the Contracting Authority can be confident will comply with its objectives and priorities. They cover the relevance of the action, its consistency with the objectives of the Call for Proposals, quality, expected impact, sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

*Scoring:*

The evaluation grid is divided into sections and subsections. Each subsection will be given a score between 1 and 5 as follows: 1 = very poor; 2 = poor; 3 = adequate; 4 = good; 5 = very good.

**Evaluation Grid**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Maximum Score</b>
<b>1. Financial and operational capacity</b>	<b>20</b>
1.1 Do the applicants and, if applicable, their affiliated entity(ies) have sufficient experience of project management?	5
1.2 Do the applicants and, if applicable, their affiliated entity(ies) have sufficient technical expertise? (especially knowledge of the issues to be addressed)	5
1.3 Do the applicants and, if applicable, their affiliated entity(ies) have sufficient management capacity? (Including staff, equipment and ability to handle the budget for the action)?	5
1.4 Does the lead applicant have stable and sufficient sources of finance?	5
<b>2. Relevance of the action</b>	<b>30</b>
<i>Score transferred from the Concept Note evaluation</i>	
<b>3. Effectiveness and feasibility of the action</b>	<b>20</b>
3.1 Are the activities proposed appropriate, practical, and consistent with the objectives and expected results?	5
3.2 Is the action plan clear and feasible?	5
3.3 Does the proposal contain objectively verifiable indicators for the outcome of the action? Is any evaluation planned?	5
3.4 Is the co-applicant(s)'s and affiliated entity(ies)'s level of involvement and participation in the action satisfactory?	5
<b>4. Sustainability of the action</b>	<b>15</b>
4.1 Is the action likely to have a tangible impact on its target groups?	5
4.2 Is the proposal likely to have multiplier effects? (Including scope for replication, extension and information sharing.)	5

4.3 Are the expected results of the proposed action sustainable?:  - financially ( <i>how will the activities be financed after the funding ends?</i> )  - institutionally ( <i>will structures allowing the activities to continue be in place at the end of the action? Will there be local 'ownership' of the results of the action?</i> )  - at policy level (where applicable) ( <i>what will be the structural impact of the action — e.g. will it lead to improved legislation, codes of conduct, methods, etc?</i> )  - environmentally (if applicable) ( <i>will the action have a negative/positive environmental impact?</i> )	5
<b>5. Budget and cost-effectiveness of the action</b>	<b>15</b>
5.1 Are the activities appropriately reflected in the budget?	/ 5
5.2 Is the ratio between the estimated costs and the expected results satisfactory?	/ 10
<b>Maximum total score</b>	<b>100</b>

*Note on section 1. Financial and operational capacity*

If the total score for section 1 is less than 12 points, the application will be rejected. If the score for at least one of the subsections under section 1 is 1, the application will also be rejected.

*Provisional selection*

After the evaluation, a table will be drawn up listing the applications ranked according to their score and within the limits of the funds available. In addition, a reserve list will be drawn up following the same criteria to be used if more funds should become available during the validity period of the reserve list.

### **(3) STEP 3: VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF THE APPLICANTS AND AFFILIATED ENTITY(IES)**

The eligibility verification, based on the supporting documents requested by the Contracting Authority (see Section 2.4) will only be performed for the applications that have been provisionally selected according to their score and within the available financial envelope.

- The Declaration by the applicant (Section 8 of Part B the grant application form) will be cross-checked with the supporting documents provided by the applicant. Any missing supporting document or any incoherence between the Declaration by the applicant and the supporting documents may lead to the rejection of the application on that sole basis.
- The eligibility of applicants, the affiliated entity(ies), and the action will be verified according to the criteria set out in Sections 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3.

Any rejected application will be replaced by the next best placed application on the reserve list that falls within the available financial envelope.

### **2.4. SUBMISSION OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR PROVISIONALLY SELECTED APPLICATIONS**

An applicant that has been provisionally selected or placed on the reserve list will be informed in writing by the Contracting Authority. It will be requested to supply the following documents in order to allow the

Contracting Authority to verify the eligibility of the applicant, (if any) of the co-applicant(s) and (if any) of their affiliated entity(ies).

Supporting documents must be provided through PADOR, see Section 2.2

1. The statutes or articles of association of the applicant, (if any) of each co-applicant(s) and (if any) of each affiliated entity(ies).
2. A copy of the applicant's latest accounts (the profit and loss account and the balance sheet for the last financial year for which the accounts have been closed). A copy of the latest account is neither required from (if any) the co-applicant(s) nor from (if any) affiliated entity(ies).
3. Legal entity sheet (see annex D of these Guidelines) duly completed and signed by each of the applicants (i.e by the applicant and (if any) by each co-applicant(s), accompanied by the justifying documents requested there. If the applicants have already signed a contract with the Contracting Authority, instead of the legal entity sheet and supporting documents, the legal entity number may be provided, unless a change in legal status occurred in the meantime.
4. A financial identification form of the applicant (not from co-applicant(s)) conforming to the model attached at Annex E of these Guidelines, certified by the bank to which the payments will be made. This bank should be located in the country where the applicant is established. If the applicant has already submitted a financial identification form in the past for a contract where the European Commission was in charge of the payments and intends to use the same bank account, a copy of the previous financial identification form may be provided instead.

Where the requested supporting documents are not uploaded in PADOR they must be supplied in the form of originals, photocopies or scanned versions (i.e. showing legible stamps, signatures and dates) of the said originals. However, the Legal entity sheet and the financial identification form must always be submitted in original.

Where such documents are not in one of the official languages of the European Union or in the language of the country where the action is implemented, a translation into the language(s) of the call for proposals of the relevant parts of these documents proving the applicant(s)'s eligibility, must be attached and will prevail for the purpose of analysing the application.

Where these documents are in an official language of the European Union other than the language of the call for proposals, it is strongly recommended, in order to facilitate the evaluation, to provide a translation of the relevant parts of the documents, proving the applicants' eligibility, into the language of the call for proposals. If the abovementioned supporting documents are not provided before the deadline indicated in the request for supporting documents sent to the applicant by the Contracting Authority, the application may be rejected.

After verifying the supporting documents, the Evaluation Committee will make a final recommendation to the Contracting Authority, which will decide on the award of grants.

NB : In the eventuality that the Contracting Authority is not satisfied with the strength, solidity, and guarantee offered by the structural link between one of the applicants and its affiliated entity, it can require the submission of the missing documents allowing for its conversion into co-applicant. If all the missing documents for co-applicants are submitted, and provided all necessary eligibility criteria are fulfilled, the above mentioned entity becomes a co-applicant for all purposes. The applicant has to submit the application form revised accordingly.

## **2.5. NOTIFICATION OF THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY'S DECISION**

### ***2.5.1. Content of the decision***

The applicants will be informed in writing of the Contracting Authority's decision concerning their application and, if rejected, the reasons for the negative decision.

An applicant believing that it has been harmed by an error or irregularity during the award process may lodge a complaint. See further Section 2.4.15 of the Practical Guide.

### 2.5.2. Indicative timetable

	DATE	TIME*
Information meeting (if any)	Not applicable	Not applicable
Deadline for requesting any clarifications from the Contracting Authority	10/05/2015	
Last date on which clarifications are issued by the Contracting Authority	20/05/2015	-
Deadline for submission of Concept Notes	02/06/2015	16:00
Information to applicants on opening, administrative checks and concept note evaluation (Step 1)	16/06/2015*	-
Invitations to submit Full Application Form	01/07/2015*	
Deadline for submission of Full Application Form	18/08/2015*	16:00
Information to applicants on the evaluation of the Full Application Form (Step 2)	11/09/2015*	-
Notification of award (after the eligibility check) (Step 3)	30/09/2015*	-
Contract signature	30/10/2015*	-

\*Provisional date. All times are in the time zone of the country of the Contracting Authority.

This indicative timetable may be updated by the Contracting Authority during the procedure. In such cases, the updated timetable will be published on the EuropeAid web site <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome> and <http://www.delbih.ec.europa.eu>

## 2.6. CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION AFTER THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY'S DECISION TO AWARD A GRANT

Following the decision to award a grant, the Beneficiary(ies) will be offered a contract based on the Contracting Authority's grant contract (see Annex G of these Guidelines<sup>9</sup>). By signing the application form

<sup>9</sup> Complemented by the provisions in Annex e3h11 where at least one of the beneficiaries is an international organisation.

(Annex A of these Guidelines), the applicants agree, if awarded a grant, to accept the contractual conditions of the standard grant contract.

### Implementation contracts

Where implementation of the action requires the Beneficiary(ies) and its affiliated entity(ies) (if any) to award procurement contracts, those contracts must be awarded in accordance with Annex IV to the standard grant contract.

## **2.7. EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AND CENTRAL EXCLUSION DATABASE**

The applicants and, if they are legal entities, the persons who have powers of representation, decision-making or control over them, are informed that, should they be in one of the situations mentioned in:

- Commission Decision of 16.12.2008 on the Early Warning System (EWS) for the use of authorising officers of the Commission and the executive agencies (OJ, L 344, 20.12.2008, p.125) or
- Commission Regulation of 17.12.2008 on the Central Exclusion Database (CED) (OJ L344, 20.12.2008, p.12),

their personal details (name, given name (if natural person), address, legal form and name and given name of the persons with powers of representation, decision-making or control (if legal person)) may be registered in the EWS only or both in the EWS and CED, and communicated to the persons and entities listed in the above-mentioned Decision and Regulation, in relation to the award or the execution of a grant agreement or decision.

### 3. LIST OF ANNEXES

#### DOCUMENTS TO BE COMPLETED

- Annex A: Grant Application Form (Word format)
- Annex B: Budget (Excel format)
- Annex C: Logical Framework (Excel format)
- Annex D: Legal Entity Sheet
- Annex E: Financial identification form
- Annex F: PADOR off Line Form<sup>10</sup>

#### DOCUMENTS FOR INFORMATION

Annex G: Standard Grant Contract

- Annex II: General conditions
- Annex IV: contract award procedures
- Annex V: standard request for payment
- Annex VI: model narrative and financial report
- Annex VII: model report of factual findings and terms of reference for an expenditure verification of an EU financed grant contract for external action.
- Annex VIII: model financial guarantee.
- Annex IX: standard template for transfer of ownership of assets.

Annex H: Daily allowance rates (Per diem), available at the following address:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/applicable-rates-diems-framework-ec-funded-external-aid-contracts-05072013\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/applicable-rates-diems-framework-ec-funded-external-aid-contracts-05072013_en)

Annex K: Guidelines and Checklist for assessing Budget and Simplified cost options.

ANNEX J: Information on the tax regime applicable to grant contracts signed under the call.

#### Useful links:

##### Project Cycle Management Guidelines

[https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/aid-delivery-methods-project-cycle-management-guidelines-vol-1\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/aid-delivery-methods-project-cycle-management-guidelines-vol-1_en)

##### The implementation of grant

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/companion/document.do?nodeNumber=19>

##### Financial Toolkit

[https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/procedures-beneficiary-countries-and-partners/financial-management-toolkit\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/procedures-beneficiary-countries-and-partners/financial-management-toolkit_en)

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<sup>10</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/search/site/pador\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/search/site/pador_en)