



Belgrade,

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS No. 2

### Civil Society Facility Programme 2018

**Publication reference: EuropeAid/162638/DD/ACT/RS**

No.	Question	Answer
1.	<p>Financial support to third parties:</p> <p>Please explain natural person legal status. Is it possible for natural person to be recipient of financial support if it is registered as an agricultural household (poljoprivredno gazdinstvo) or entrepreneur (preduzetnička radnja)?</p>	<p>Please note that in line with the Guidelines for Applicants, section 2.2.4., p. 31, <i>“To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the contracting authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entity(ies), an action or specific activities.”</i></p> <p>The Contracting Authority cannot prejudice the eligibility of the applicant or assess the merits/details of the specific proposal at this stage, i.e. decisions are taken only upon assessment of complete information provided by the specific applicant and/or application in the course of particular evaluation procedure.</p> <p>For the purposes of this Call for Proposals, under Lots 2,3,4,5 and 6, third parties are: registered and non-registered civil society organisations established in Serbia and natural persons.</p> <p>In addition, the eligibility rules for financial support to third parties will be defined by the grant applicant (Please see Guidelines for applicants, section 2.1.4, Financial support to third parties, for each respective lot).</p>
2.	<p>We would like to clarify information stated in LOT 5:</p> <p>For this Call for proposals the following specific conditions or restrictions apply for the third parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They are currently not a Beneficiary of an EU grant or an ongoing financial support to third parties;</li></ul>	<p>It refers only to EU funds.</p>

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	Does it refer only to EU funds and not to other sources of financing (public sources, bilateral donors, etc.)?	
3.	<p>In the Guidelines for grant applicants, Lot 5 refers to Support to grassroots organizations in the field of environment and socio economic development.</p> <p>In this context, how would you define grassroots organization?</p>	<p>Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020 refer to grass-roots organisation as a self-organised group of individuals pursuing common interests through a volunteer-based, non-profit organisation. Grassroots organisations usually have a low degree of formality but a broader purpose than issue-based self-help groups, community-based organisations or neighbourhood-associations.</p>
4.	<p>On September 12, 2012 the European Commission released the communication 'The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in External relations'. (quoted and attached below) where it defines cooperatives as CSOs.</p> <p><a href="https://coopseurope.coop/resources/news/eu-commission-recognizes-cooperative-enterprises-civil-society-actors">https://coopseurope.coop/resources/news/eu-commission-recognizes-cooperative-enterprises-civil-society-actors</a></p> <p>Please inform us if this applies for this grant and for Financial support to third parties.</p> <p>"1.2. What the EU means by CSOs</p> <p>The concept of "CSOs" embraces a wide range of actors with different roles and mandates.</p> <p>Definitions vary over time and across institutions and countries. The EU considers CSOs to include all non-State, not-for-profit structures<sup>1</sup>, non-partisan and non –violent, through which people organise to pursue shared objectives and ideals, whether political, cultural, social or economic. Operating from the local to the national, regional and international levels, they comprise urban and rural, formal and informal organisations. The EU values CSOs' diversity and specificities; it engages with accountable and transparent CSOs which</p>	<p>The broadest possible understanding about civil society organisations is applied under this call for proposals, as defined in 1999 by the European Economic and Social Committee (CES/1999/851) and further detailed by both the EESC (CES/1999/851, CES/2000/81) and the EC (COM/2002/0704 final, COM/2005/0290 final).</p> <p>Cooperatives as mentioned in the referred Communication from the European Commission indeed can be considered as defined in the relevant paragraph and footnote.</p> <p>The Contracting Authority cannot prejudice the eligibility of the applicant or asses the merits/details of the specific proposal at this stage, i.e. decisions are taken only upon assessment of complete information provided by the specific applicant and/or application in the course of particular evaluation procedure.</p>

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	<p>share its commitment to social progress and to the fundamental values of peace, freedom, equal rights and human dignity.</p> <p>They include membership-based, cause-based and service-oriented CSOs. Among them, community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, faith-based organisations, foundations, research institutions, Gender and LGBT organisations, cooperatives, professional and business associations, and the not-for-profit media.</p> <p>Trade unions and employers' organisations, the so-called social partners, constitute a specific category of CSOs."</p>	
5.	<p>In line with section 2.2.4. „Further information about concept notes” of Guidelines for grant applicants (Reference EuropeAid/162638/DD/ACT/RS), I would like to ask following questions that refer to the types of action listed in Lot 4:</p> <p>1. Is the list of types of actions that may be financed under this call exhaustive?</p>	<p>Please note that in line with the Guidelines for applicants section 2.1.4, an application may be made for the eligible actions as listed under Types of action for each respective Lot.</p>
6.	<p>2. The type of action exemplified under the first bullet states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support concrete initiatives of CSOs related to social business and cooperatives, social entrepreneurship, addressing societal and environmental challenges and fostering inclusive development, fundraising and self – employment activities;</li> </ul> <p>Are the terms „social“ in front of „business” and “entrepreneurship” essential to the type of action exemplified? In other words, is the following type of action also acceptable under this call:</p> <p>Support concrete initiatives of CSOs related to business and cooperatives, entrepreneurship, addressing societal and environmental challenges and fostering inclusive development, fundraising and self – employment activities;</p>	<p>In the action exemplified, the term 'social' is essential.</p> <p>Please note that in line with the Guidelines for Applicants, section 2.2.4., p. 31, <i>“To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the contracting authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entity(ies), <u>an action or specific activities.</u>”</i></p> <p>The Contracting Authority cannot prejudice the eligibility of the applicant or assess the merits/details of the specific proposal at this stage, i.e. decisions are taken only upon assessment of complete information provided by the specific applicant and/or application in the course of particular evaluation procedure.</p>
7.	<p>3. Can the capacity of CSOs to support improvements in the competitiveness of</p>	<p>Please note that in line with the Guidelines for Applicants, section 2.2.4., p. 31, <i>“To ensure</i></p>

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	Serbia's SMEs be considered a capacity to address reform processes even if the particular measures are not included in the ERP or other reform documents?	<p><i>equal treatment of applicants, the contracting authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entity(ies), <u>an action or specific activities.</u></i></p> <p>The Contracting Authority cannot assess the merits/details of the specific proposal at this stage, i.e. decisions are taken only upon assessment of complete information provided by the specific applicant and/or application in the course of particular evaluation procedure.</p>
8.	How much annual income should have the Lead Applicant in order to participate in a grant application? Is there a certain limit?	Please note that the limit of the annual income is not set in the Guidelines for applicants. However, the Guidelines specify that the lead applicant must have <u>stable and sufficient</u> sources of finance to maintain their activity throughout the proposed action and, where appropriate, to participate in its funding. The lead applicant should consider the stable and sufficient sources of finance with respect to the requested and proposed budget for the action.
9.	What explanation, acceptable to the Contracting Authority, should be indicated in order to finance 100% of the grant?	<p>Please see answer to question no. 7.</p> <p>In addition, please note that the grant may cover the entire eligible costs of the action <u>if this is deemed essential to carry it out</u>. If that is the case, the lead applicant must justify full financing in Section 2.1 of Part B of the grant application form. <u>The validity of the justification provided will be examined during the evaluation procedure</u>. The absence of any justification may lead to the rejection of the application.</p>
10.	<p>About ineligible costs - "Purchases of land or buildings, except where necessary for the direct implementation of the action, in which case ownership must be transferred in accordance with Article 7.5 of the general conditions of the standard grant contract, at the latest at the end of the action" –</p> <p>Is the eligible cost of building an object that will contribute to the achievement of the project's objectives?</p>	<p>Please note that in line with the Guidelines for applicants, among the other types of action that are ineligible (p.23), the following is included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• actions <u>essentially focused on construction activities, purchase of equipment, purchase and/or renovation of building or offices;</u></li> </ul>
11.	If the financial support to third parties is to a natural person or informal group, can the expenses for the activities s/he or they performs be paid for by the applicant/partner directly to the	<p>No, this will not be considered as financial support to third parties.</p> <p>The means to provide financial support to third parties is to be defined in the proposals showing</p>

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	product/service providers and it will still be considered financial support to third parties?	the evaluation mechanisms and controls ensuring the prudent use of funds for best value towards the agreed aim.
12.	Is financial support to third parties obligatory for lots 5 and 6?	Yes. In lots 5 and 6, applicants are obliged to propose financial support to third parties in order to help achieving the objectives of the action. The financial support to third parties is considered essential to achieve the objective of the action for these lots.