



Belgrade,
January, 2023

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS No.2

restricted Call for Proposal for Framework Partnership Agreements and associated annual operating grants

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GENERAL REMARK: According to the provisions made in the Section 2.2.3 and 2.2.7 of the Guidelines for applicants, the contracting authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of lead applicants, or an annual work programme or specific activities. Therefore, clarifications provided below regard **all potential applicants**, and are not strictly applicable to a specific applicant, strategic plan, work programme or activity.

No.	Question	Answer
1.	<p>Having studied your guidelines for applicants, I would greatly appreciate it if you could clarify eligibility concerns, which we identified for the Restricted Call for Proposals for FPAs and associated annual OpG.</p> <p>Namely, although our nonprofit organisation, qualifies for this call according to the article <i>2.1.1 Eligibility of applicant</i>, we are a newly established foundation and therefore unable to provide some of the documents requested for the PADOR:</p> <p>2. Applicant's activity reports of the last 2 years (2020 and 2021) - We are established in July 2022 and are unable to provide activity reports for 2020 and 2021.</p> <p>3. A copy of the applicant's latest accounts (the profit and loss account and the balance sheet for last 3 financial years - ditto</p> <p>With this information in mind, please advise if we could still apply for this call. We would like to bring to your attention that our</p>	<p>Section 2.2.1.1. of the "Guidelines for applicants" enumerates the documents which are required to be up-loaded in PADOR by the grant applicant to assess the eligibility of the applicant and stipulates that <i>"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."</i></p> <p>Where such documents are not in English or one of the official languages of the European Union, a translation into English of the relevant parts of these documents proving the applicant's eligibility, must be attached for the purpose of analysing the application.</p>

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	<p>nonprofit organisation was established under a global network and brings together the very best of human and organisational resources to tackle the issues of cultural diversity, social inclusion and child protection.</p> <p>We are looking forward to your reply as soon as possible so that we can make the best use of the upcoming period to prepare the application papers should you advise that we indeed qualify for this call.</p>	
2.	<p>I want to ask about open call for Restricted Call for Proposals for Framework Partnership Agreements and associated annual operating grants. Is it just for organizations on the territory of R. Serbia or it is allowed to apply also organizations from other countries? For example, we are association from North Macedonia and we want to apply with our partners from Serbia and Spain. Is this possible, or it is just for Serbia territory organizations?</p>	<p>Section 2.1.1 of the “Guidelines for applicants” specifies that the applicant must be established in the Republic of Serbia in order to be eligible. Co-applicants, affiliated entities and associates are not eligible for the Framework Partnership Agreement.</p>
3.	<p>Dear, as prescribed in the GUIDELINES for applicant FPA + OpG 176151, we would like to ask you a few questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is it necessary that Strategic plan cover activities on National level, (e.g. R. of Serbia), Regional level, (e.g. county), or it is sufficient that Strategic plan cover only local level? Does it have any affect on the assesment of Plan? 2. Is it necessary that Strategic plan cover all topics in Lot 3: monitoring of air/water/soil and biodiversity etc. ... Or it could cover just fields in which NGO has an expertise? 3. Some persons in our Project team have a regular jobs for an indefinite period of time, out of our NGO. These persons are founders of NGO and members of our Project team. Is it 	<p>Ad 1) The Strategic plan is a long-term plan based on organisation's mission and objectives determining main programmes and activities over a minimum of 4 years leading to the achievement of results in the relevant area of the priority sectors of the Call for Proposals. The strategic plan and annual work programmes must be implemented in the Republic of Serbia.</p> <p>Ad 2) Section 2 of the “Guidelines for applicants” specifies that the applicant should have significant experience in <u>minimum one</u> of the specific areas defined within the relevant five priority sectors set in section 1.2.</p> <p>For lot 3 air, water, soil and biodiversity (with related advocacy and visibility activities) can be considered as separate “specific areas” for this call. If an application covers several areas, it’s relevance might be increased.</p> <p>Ad 3) An operating grant can’t support “Project activities” which are usually financed under an “action grant”. The purpose of an operating grant is to cover the running costs of the beneficiary based</p>

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	<p>possible to engage them within an Operational grant?, (e.g. on the basis of part-time work). What is the most convenient way to show their costs, (flat-rate, unit costs, lump sums)?</p>	<p>on an approved work programme, including its general administrative costs. Eligible costs relate to the functioning and general activities of the beneficiary. They are structural and support costs of an administrative, technical and logistical nature that are cross cutting for the operation of the beneficiary body's various activities.</p> <p>Examples: costs connected with infrastructure and the general operation of the beneficiary at main office level and costs such as administrative and financial management, training, legal advice, documentation, IT, maintenance of buildings, water, gas, electricity, insurance, office supplies, human resources, accounting fees, depreciation, telephone bills, travel and other utilities costs.</p> <p>Activities which can be covered by the operating grant must be in pursuit of the statutory objectives of the organisation, which must be in line with EU policies, and directly linked to the strategic plan. Please see a non-exhaustive list of type of activities in section 2.1.3 of the Guidelines.</p> <p>For staff cost please see the budget table to be used for the operating grant. If staff are not working full time, the percentage should be indicated alongside the description of the item and reflected in the number of units (not the unit value).</p>
4.	<p>Regarding current call for proposals Civil Society Facility Program 2021 – 2023, Restricted Call for Proposals for Framework Partnership Agreements and Associated Annual Operating Grants (deadline January 23rd 2023), we would like to ask you the following question:</p> <p>Our organization was founded in 2010.</p> <p>In 2017, we signed the Agreement of Cooperation with a Foundation in which we in fact merged the activities of both organizations. In 2021, the organisation has formally changed its Statute, in terms of</p>	<p>Section 2.2.1.1. of the “Guidelines for applicants” enumerates the documents which are required to be up-loaded in PADOR by the grant applicant to assess the eligibility of the applicant and stipulates that <i>“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.”</i></p> <p>Where such documents are not in English or one of the official languages of the European Union, a translation into</p>

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	<p>introducing new structure and leadership, as well as actually taking over majority of common activities with the Foundation.</p> <p>During the period 2017 – 2021, financial reports of the Foundation included financial costs of the activities of the organisation.</p> <p>Could you please let us know whether our organization with such a specificity is eligible for applying for this call?</p> <p>Along with the application, we would thus send the abovementioned Agreement of Cooperation and the Financial reports of the Foundation. Would that be sufficient?</p>	<p>English of the relevant parts of these documents proving the applicant's eligibility, must be attached for the purpose of analysing the application</p>
5.	<p>We kindly ask you to provide us with clarification of eligibility criteria related to this call.</p> <p>We are an organization with an annual budget above 200.000 EUR.</p> <p>Taking this into account, potential EU co-funding we may request within this call (minimum 50.000 / maximum 80.000 EUR) does not fit into minimum (60%) /maximum (95%) percentages of total eligible costs of the annual work program.</p> <p>Thus we are not sure whether we are eligible to apply taking into account our annual work plan budget. Can you please confirm that our understanding of the given criteria is correct.</p>	<p>Any operating grant requested under this call and under each lot must fall between the minimum and maximum amounts indicated for each lot and the minimum and maximum percentages of total eligible costs of the relevant* annual work programme of the applicant as set in section 1.3 of the Guidelines for applicants.</p> <p>*The activities foreseen in the work programme should correspond to the pursuit of the organisation's statutory objectives, which must clearly indicate (at least) one of the specific areas defined within the five priority sectors set in section 1.2.</p>
6.	<p>Our organization is currently preparing the documents for the application for the Framework Partnership Agreement.</p> <p>We wanted to ask you do we need to translate in English the Financial statements/reports as well?</p> <p>Looking forward to your response.</p>	<p>In case of submission of supporting documents such as statutes or financial reports, please consider that all documents must be submitted in English.</p>