



QUESTIONS and ANSWERS No.1

Support to the independent media sector in Serbia
Publication reference: EuropeAid/180725/DD/ACT/RS

No.	Question	Answer
1.	I would like to receive an explanation about the obligations regarding co-applicants. So, exactly, what does that mean?	Co-applicants must satisfy the eligibility criteria as applicable to the lead applicant himself. In addition to the categories referred to in Section 2.1.1 (1) of the Guidelines for applicants (pages 6-7), the following are however also eligible: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civil society organisations ;• Cultural and educational institutions/organisations. It is also important to note that the lead applicant <u>must act with at least two co-applicants, out of which at least one co-applicant must be established outside of Belgrade.</u> Additional co-applicants are also possible.
2.	Can the second organization be related to the culture or in the same industry?	Please refer to answer to question number 1. In addition to categories listed under 2.1.1 (1) of the Guidelines for applicants, the co-applicants can be civil society organizations and/or cultural and educational institutions or organizations.
3.	If the lead applicant is established outside of Belgrade can both co-applicants be from (established in) Belgrade?	The lead applicant can be established in Belgrade or outside of the Belgrade, however at least <u>one co-applicant (of the two minimum co-applicants) must be established outside of Belgrade,</u> as specified in the Guidelines for applicants, p.7.
4.	Should one co-applicant be established outside of Belgrade even though the lead applicant is established from outside the Belgrade?	Please refer to answer to question number 3.
5.	Can we get this presentation by email?	Please note that the presentation given during the info session is published together with the remaining documents for the Call for Proposals: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/prospect-details/180725PROSPECTSEN
6.	Can you clarify the additional elements in section 1.2?	In section 1.2 of the Guidelines for grant applicants on page 5, after the three priorities, additional elements have been highlighted that

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		<p>will be taken into consideration in the evaluation (under point 1.4 of the evaluation grid of the concept note). These elements are the gender mainstreaming of the proposal, when the needs of women and men are considered and addressed on an equal basis, as well as the demonstration of the internal mechanisms of the organization for fact checking, accuracy, ethics, editorial oversight, editorial integrity in line with the Serbian Code of ethics for journalism (where applicable) and the Media strategy of Serbia. In addition, for priority 3, supporting local media outside of Belgrade will be considered an added value. All these information and requirements are also important.</p>
7.	<p>Where can we see more information about the financial support to third party?</p>	<p>For details on the requirements related to financial support to the third parties, please follow instructions on p. 10 of the Guidelines for applicants.</p> <p>If the lead applicant decides to propose financial support to third parties, it is mandatory for the lead applicant to strictly define in Section 2.1.1 of Annex A.2 (Grant application form – Full application) the mandatory conditions set for giving financial support (points (i) to (vi) defined on page 10).</p> <p>In addition, if financial support to third parties is planned in the action, the following <u>specific conditions</u> apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the persons or categories of persons eligible for financial support to third parties are: organisations and associations registered outside of the capital city of Belgrade - the types of activity eligible for financial support are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ capacity building and mentoring in innovative and cooperative practices, like networking/ hub development ○ production of quality, evidence-based and independent content, including digital, with a focus on coverage of local and diverse topics, reaching out to marginalised and diverse communities including among others women, youth, people

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		<p style="text-align: center;">with disability and minorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ enhance the image and narrative on marginalised or discriminated groups including among others women, youth, people with disabilities, minorities etc.
8.	<p>Would you please clarify the call for proposals related to the following priorities:</p> <p>The priorities of this call for proposals are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To support monitoring and advocacy actions to ensure the implementation of the Media strategy, media laws and policies of Serbia; 2. To support integrity, safety and security of journalists, including among others against cyber threats, SLAPPs, online attacks, violence against female journalists, supporting mental health and others as appropriate, at national and/or at local level; 3. To support media to develop editorial capacities, quality content, evidence based journalism, and the use of digital tools, in particular at local level, with a focus on coverage of local and diverse topics, reaching out to marginalised and diverse communities. Access of the public to evidence based and quality content will help fight against disinformation. <p>We would like to know whether the project should contain elements of all three listed priorities or it is enough to focus and fulfil the priorities within one of three priorities?</p>	<p>Please note that the three priorities listed in the call for proposals are priorities to be considered separately and independently from each other. The lead applicant can decide to focus on one or more of these three priorities.</p>
9.	<p>We would like check whether "Radio-television of XX" can participate. Colleague read the Guidelines for grant applicants. We see no obstacle, in the formal sense, to participate.</p>	<p>In line with the Guidelines for applicants, section 2.2.4 <i>“To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the contracting authority <u>cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entity(ies), an action or specific activities.</u>”</i></p> <p>However, the cumulative conditions for the eligibility of the lead applicant are clearly listed under on page 6 of the Guidelines for applicants:</p> <p><u>“In order to be eligible for a grant, the lead applicant must:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be a legal person and • be a specific type of organisation such as: print/electronic/on-line media, radio or television channel, media organisation,

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		<p>news agency, media production house or media association and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be established in¹ the Republic of Serbia 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.”

¹ To be determined on the basis of the organisation's statutes that should demonstrate that it has been established by an instrument governed by the national law of the country concerned and that its head office is located in an eligible country. In this respect, any legal entity whose statutes have been established in another country cannot be considered an eligible local organisation, even if the statutes are registered locally or a 'Memorandum of Understanding' has been concluded.