



Belgrade,

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS No.1
(Step 2 Full application stage)

CfP EUNRC EuropeAid/173790/DD/ACT/RS

No.	Question	Answer
1.	<p>Does the focus of the National Resource Centre need to be mainly on the under-developed sectors of civil society or could the focus encompass other areas as well (such as freedom of media, speech, democracy, etc.) that are not necessarily recognised as under-developed?</p>	<p>The work of the EUNRC can encompass all areas relevant to the objectives stated under section 1.2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME AND PRIORITY ISSUES of the Guidelines for Applicants.</p> <p>However, please note that a specific focus is expected to develop civil society in sectors where it is identified as under-developed. Minimum 40% of the financial support to third parties (under Annex B - Budget under heading 6 "Other") provided needs to be given to beneficiaries in the sectors within section 1.2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME AND PRIORITY ISSUES under part 3.1.2, as well as others, where civil society is identified as under-developed during the mapping exercise in consultation with the EUD and other stakeholders.</p>
2.	<p>Regarding the financial support to third parties (Guidelines for applicants, Section 2.1.3), what is the difference between the following two points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The grant beneficiary proposal must include a financial support to third parties consuming minimum 50% of the direct eligible cost of the action (please refer to budget heading 7 "Subtotal direct eligible costs of the Action" within the Annex B-Budget).• Minimum 40% of the financial support to third parties (under Annex B - Budget under heading 6 "Other") provided needs to be given to beneficiaries in the sectors within section 1.2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME AND PRIORITY ISSUES	<p>As stipulated under the section 2.1.3. of the Guidelines for applicants, the grant beneficiary proposal must include a financial support to third parties consuming minimum 50% of the total direct eligible cost of the action (please refer to budget heading 7 "Subtotal direct eligible costs of the Action" within the Annex B-Budget).</p> <p>On the other hand, minimum 40% of the financial support to third parties (under Annex B - Budget under heading 6 "Other") provided needs to be given to beneficiaries in the sectors within section 1.2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME AND PRIORITY ISSUES under part 3.1.2, as well as others, where civil society is identified as under-developed during the mapping exercise in consultation with the</p>

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	under part 3.1.2, as well as others, where civil society is identified as under-developed during the mapping exercise in consultation with the EUD and other stakeholders.	EUD and other stakeholders. This requirement ensures that there is sufficient funds allocated to civil society identified as under-developed.
3.	Who are “third parties”? Are third parties the under-developed groups, civil society organisations, or someone else?	<p>The third parties to whom financial support to third parties can be provided directly are defined under the Section 2.1.3. ‘Eligible actions: actions for which an application may be made’ of the Guidelines for Applicants:</p> <p>“For this Call for proposals the following specific conditions apply for the third parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · be a legal person · be non-profit-making and · be a specific type of organisation such as: non-governmental organisations (NGOs), i.e. organizations considered as non-state, non-profit making actors operating on an independent and accountable basis. They may include: non-governmental organizations, professional associations, chambers of commerce, employers associations and trade unions, centres, independent foundations, and independent research based institutions, public and private universities, media organizations, legally registered civil society network. <p>- be legally established in Serbia.”</p> <p>However, please note that ‘Informal Groups’ are also referred to as Third Parties to whom support may be provided both in terms of trainings as well as financial support.</p>
4.	How you define a permanently open call for third parties? When does the evaluation of proposals take place? Is it a call that is open all year round with quarterly or biannually sessions of evaluations of proposals, or rather the evaluations take place when there is a demand?	<p>A permanently open call for third parties is a call that is permanently open, that is to say to which applications can be made frequently, when the potential applicants feel ready and feel the need.</p> <p>The frequency of evaluation is to be defined by the applicants in their proposal.</p>
5.	Could the lead-applicant be eligible as a coalition that covers all Serbia except Belgrade, and have only one partner (co-applicant) from Belgrade?	Please see the eligibility criteria for co-applicants under section 2.1.1. Eligibility of applicants (i.e. lead applicant and co-applicant(s)) of the Guidelines for Applicants.

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		The proposal needs to include a <u>minimum of 3 CSOs established in Serbia outside the region/county/city where the lead applicant is established.</u>
6.	Could you provide more information about the co-financing to the proposed budget? Does it include in kind contribution or contribution in cash? When do we have to present our co-financing to the proposed budget?	Please see page 17 of the GfA: “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. Other co-financing shall be based on estimates provided by the applicant.”
7.	This question is related to the introduction for the co-applicants: If four CSOs are joining and the lead applicant is from Belgrade, does it mean that co-applicants need to be established in three cities other than Belgrade?	Please see the eligibility criteria for co-applicants under section 2.1.1. Eligibility of applicants (i.e. lead applicant and co-applicant(s)) of the Guidelines for Applicants. The proposal needs to include a minimum of three CSOs established in Serbia outside the region/county/city where the lead applicant is established. If the lead applicant is established in Belgrade, a minimum of three Serbian co-applicants need to be established elsewhere in Serbia.
8.	If the applicant did not have projects acceding the budget of EUR 100,000 in the last year, is the applicant still obligated to provide audit reports? What is your experience with the previous calls so far?	<p>This Call is for an amount of € 4.8M. Therefore, the lead applicant, as stipulated under the section 2.2.1. Application forms of the Guidelines for Applicants, is obliged to provide an audit report produced by an approved external auditor where it is available, and always in cases where a statutory audit is required by EU or national law. That report shall certify the accounts for up to the last 3 financial years available.</p> <p>In all other cases, the lead applicant shall provide a self-declaration signed by its authorised representative certifying the validity of its accounts for up to the last 3 financial years available.</p> <p>This requirement shall apply only to the first application made by an applicant to the contracting authority in any one financial year.</p> <p>The external audit report as well as the self-declaration certifying the validity of the accounts are not required from the co-applicant(s) or affiliated entities (if any).</p>

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9.	Can you publish or send me the PowerPoint presentation?	The PowerPoint presentation is published on: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1655895095933&do=publi.welcome&searchtype=RS&aofr=173790&nbPubliList=15&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&userlanguage=en
10.	Is only the lead applicant obliged to provide cost share?	<p>Cost share i.e. combining two separate projects managed by the beneficiary to fund the same activity with different percentages is NOT allowed.</p> <p>The co-financing required in this Call for Proposals needs to be provided by the applicant itself or any different CSO / donor to co-finance all the activities of the proposed Action. A case where a co-financer suggests to finance whole cost of only specific activities would NOT be accepted as co-financing to the Action.</p>
11.	Should financial support to third parties be provided in the amount of up to 50% only from the direct costs requested through this call, or can it include funds provided for direct costs from the cost share?	The grant beneficiary proposal must include a financial support to third parties consuming minimum 50% of the direct eligible cost of the action (please refer to budget heading 7 “Subtotal direct eligible costs of the Action” within the Annex B-Budget).
12.	What type of grants are eligible under the financial support to third parties? Is it possible to provide financial support for the purpose of capacity building?	The conditions of eligible and ineligible actions for FSTP are defined under section ‘2.1.3. Eligible actions: actions for which an application may be made’ of the Guidelines for Applicants.
13.	Is it possible to include technical support grants and matching grants within the FSTP for organisations that are involved in the capacity building related to financial sustainability and local resource mobilisation?	The conditions of eligible and ineligible actions for FSTP are defined under section ‘2.1.3. Eligible actions: actions for which an application may be made’ of the Guidelines for Applicants.
14.	Is it possible to include flexible core support grants under the financial support to third parties?	The conditions of eligible and ineligible actions for FSTP are defined under section ‘2.1.3. Eligible actions: actions for which an application may be made’ of the Guidelines for Applicants.
15.	Can we foresee cooperation with other resource centres in the region?	Cooperation with other resource centers in the region is encouraged.

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16.	Can you share any feedback about learnings from the last resource centre project?	<p>The Guidelines already incorporate the learnings that were observed during the implementation of the last NRC and other resource centre grants in Western Balkans and Turkey.</p> <p>Moreover, the following three beneficial points can be highlighted for this Call for Proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of mock-up trainings to allow interested parties to follow trainings at their own time and pace. - Development and use of IT tools to assist CSOs in their operations as well as their potential self-assessment. - Close cooperation with other resource centres in the region.
17.	Do you have the recording of the Info Session? Can you publish it?	The Info session has been recorded solely to ensure recording of all questions raised during the Info Session. The recording will not be published.
18.	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 general budget of the Union or the European Development Fund. Can we secure part of the co-financing for the overall project by imposing a proportional (5%) co-financing requirement for applicants/grants under certain parts of the FSTP schemes? In doing so, we would ensure not to impose this requirement on grassroots and informal groups, but would limit any such requirement to those FSTP schemes targeting more established CSOs.	<p>The co-financing required in this Call for Proposals needs to be provided by the applicant itself or any different CSO / donor to co-finance all the activities of the proposed Action.</p> <p>A case where a co-financer suggests to finance whole cost of only specific activities (an FSTP activity in your question) would NOT be accepted as co-financing to the Action.</p> <p>Requesting co-financing from FSTP beneficiaries might put FSTP applicants with limited resources in a disproportionate disadvantage in benefiting from the EU National Resource Centre's activities.</p> <p>Other co-financing shall be based on estimates provided by the applicant.</p>
19.	The Informal Groups to benefit from the FSTP need to be supported via an intermediary CSO. Is it allowed for a co-applicant to act as	Yes, a co-applicant might act as an intermediary CSO while supporting Informal Groups.

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	an intermediary CSO?	
20.	<p>We are fully aware that the current CSOs National Resource Centre (NRC) has been operating since 2019 and being managed by Civic Initiatives, as also stated in the Guidelines for Applicants for this Call for Proposals (CfP). Can you please clarify the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is the owner of the current NRC – the DEU or the Civic Initiatives as the managing organisation? • Will the rights of management of the resources of the current NRC (tools/platforms, databases and the other outputs produced) be transferred and/or shared with the new organisation selected to administer the NRC under this CfP, considering that the EU encourages continuity of the results of the existing initiatives? • How will the DEU ensure that the Civic Initiatives, as the organisation managing the NRC and in possession of its resources currently, are not given an unfair competitive advantage over the other organisations submitting proposals under this CfP? 	<p>The current NRC as well as the future EUNRC are grant projects allowing the implementer to keep the outputs of the grant. Hence, in the case that another applicant wins the current Call for Proposals, Civic Initiatives is not legally obliged to transfer the tools/platforms, databases and the other outputs produced to the new implementer of the EUNRC grant. Please also note that many outputs of the current NRC are public and are expected to remain so. However, the EUDEL to Serbia will encourage that the experience is passed on during the start-up phase of the new EUNRC.</p> <p>The incumbent organization running the Resource Centre has its own experience from the implementation of the grant. As in competition for other grants, other candidates can compete equally well through strong and valuable / creative proposals of their own.</p> <p>All members of the evaluation committee and any observers must sign a declaration of impartiality and confidentiality prior to carrying out any tasks related to the evaluation.</p>
21.	<p>The Guidelines for Applicants in the section related to FSTP, page 11, states that FSTP will provide financial support to third parties via permanent open calls. If an application contains several different grant types, is it necessary for all of them to be distributed via permanent open calls? In other words, can there be a combination of permanent open calls and open calls with defined deadlines?</p>	<p>As mentioned in section ‘2.1.3. Eligible actions: actions for which an application may be made’ of the Guidelines for Applicants, types of Action, which may be financed under this call include ‘provision of financial support to third parties via permanent open calls’. The applicants will describe the modality and the timings for the calls and the evaluations and approvals in their application.</p>
22.	<p>Indicative types of activities eligible for financial support to third parties on page 14 list 6 groups of activities. Is that list exhaustive or can other activities such as citizen mobilisation around local issues, citizen awareness raising campaigns, development and implementation of trainings and other capacity building activities for informal groups and grassroots, service provision for vulnerable groups etc. be eligible for FSTP as well?</p>	<p>The Indicative types of activities eligible for financial support to third parties listed under section 2.1.3. ‘Eligible actions: actions for which an application may be made’ provide ideas in line with the objectives of this Call and yet, are not exhaustive.</p> <p>As regards ‘service provision for vulnerable groups’, CSO could be supported by FSTP in line with the objectives of this Call for Proposals, however please note that direct cash transfers to vulnerable groups would not be</p>

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		eligible as FSTP in the context of this Call for Proposals.
23.	Whether CSO from EU can be a lead applicant?	Please see section 2.1.1. Eligibility of applicants (i.e. lead applicant and co-applicant(s)) of the Guidelines for applicants for the eligibility requirements of the lead applicant which clearly stipulate that the lead applicant must be established in ¹ the Republic of Serbia.
24.	What is the minimum and maximum budget requested per project application under this call?	<p>Please see section ‘1.3 Financial allocation provided by the contracting authority’ of the Guidelines for Applicants.</p> <p>“Any grant requested under this call for proposals must fall between the following minimum and maximum amounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimum amount: EUR 4,500,000. • maximum amount: EUR 4,800,000.”
25.	What is the minimum and maximum timeframe for the project implementation?	Please see section ‘2.1.3. Eligible actions: actions for which an application may be made’ of the Guidelines for applicants. “The initial planned duration of an action may not be lower than 48 months nor exceed 56 months.”
26.	Whether lead applicant and co-applicants and affiliated entities and third parties must be registered in PROSPECT or only lead applicant?	<p>Lead applicants, co-applicants and affiliated entities should register in PADOR and the lead applicants must make sure that their PADOR profile is up to date. Please note that the registration of this data in PADOR is obligatory.</p> <p>Before starting using PADOR and PROSPECT, please read the user guides available on the website. All technical questions related to the use of these systems should be addressed to the IT helpdesk at INTPA-SUPPORT-SERVICES@ec.europa.eu via the online support form in PROSPECT.</p>

¹ To be determined on the basis of the organisation’s statutes, which 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.

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27.	What means registration in PROSPECT?	<p>Please refer to “2.2. HOW TO APPLY AND THE PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW” of GfA.</p> <p>All questions related to registration in PADOR or the online submission via PROSPECT should be addressed to the IT helpdesk at INTPA-SUPPORT-SERVICES@ec.europa.eu via the online support form in PROSPECT: please note that the working languages of the IT support are English, French and Spanish. Therefore, users are invited to send their questions in in English, French or Spanish should they wish to benefit from an optimum response time.</p>
28.	What are the minimum and maximum pages for the concept note and full project application?	Please follow the instructions for completion in the templates for application.
29.	Whether lead applicant and partners and affiliated entities must provide audit reports from their previous years or lead applicant only? What report must be submitted if there was no audit report from the previous year i.e. if the annual budget of the previous year didn't exceed 50 000 euros since there is no legal obligation in Serbia for audit report if the annual budget didn't exceed 50 000 euros ?	Please refer to the section 2.2.1. Application forms, more precisely pages 21-22 of the GfA.
30.	Whether companies that will perform tasks for media coverage may be contractors selected under procurements or co-applicant or affiliated entities?	The 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.
31.	Who are beneficiaries in the project proposal?	The contracting authority expects the applicants to define this clearly in line with the objectives the Call.
32.	What is the difference between the third parties and beneficiaries?	<p>Please see the relevant section under section ‘2.1.3. Eligible actions: actions for which an application may be made’ of the Guidelines for Applicants.</p> <p>“For this Call for proposals the following specific conditions apply for the third parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · be a legal person · be non-profit-making and

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · be a specific type of organisation such as: non-governmental organisations (NGOs), i.e. organizations considered as non-state, non-profit making actors operating on an independent and accountable basis. They may include: non-governmental organizations, professional associations, chambers of commerce, employers associations and trade unions, centres, independent foundations, and independent research based institutions, public and private universities, media organizations, legally registered civil society network. - be legally established in Serbia.”
33.	Who can be third parties and whether are presented in the project proposal and included in the project budget?	<p>Please see the relevant section under section ‘2.1.3. Eligible actions: actions for which an application may be made’ of the Guidelines for Applicants.</p> <p>“For this Call for proposals the following <u>specific conditions apply for the third parties</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · be a legal person · be non-profit-making and · be a specific type of organisation such as: non-governmental organisations (NGOs), i.e. organizations considered as non-state, non-profit making actors operating on an independent and accountable basis. They may include: non-governmental organizations, professional associations, chambers of commerce, employers associations and trade unions, centres, independent foundations, and independent research based institutions, public and private universities, media organizations, legally registered civil society network. - be legally established in Serbia.”
34.	How many third parties can be involved in the project proposal?	There is no limit to the number of third parties that can be involved in the project proposal.
35.	Pls clarify “Minimum 40% of the financial	Please refer to Financial support to third

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	support to third parties (under Annex B - Budget under heading 6 "Other") provided needs to be given to beneficiaries in the sectors within section 1.2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME AND PRIORITY ISSUES under part 3.1.2, as well as others, where civil society is identified as under-developed during the mapping exercise in consultation with the EUD and other stakeholders” given on the page 13.	parties on page 13 of the GfA.
36.	Whether written statements related to Ethics clauses and Code of Conduct must be provided by the lead applicant or co-applicants, affiliated entities, third parties?	Self-evaluation questionnaire on SEA-H: the lead applicant as well as all co-applicants and affiliated entities shall fill in the self-evaluation questionnaire assessing the organisation’s internal policy and procedure against sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEA-H) (Annex L) where the amount of grant exceeds EUR 60 000 (see Section 2.5.6 of the PRAG)18. Please note that the self-evaluation questionnaire on SEA-H shall be submitted via PADOR.