



Belgrade,

**QUESTIONS and ANSWERS No.1**

**Support to independent media in Serbia**

**Publication reference: EuropeAid/173606/DD/ACT/RS**

No.	Question	Answer
1.	<p>In the guidelines, it is stated that a condition to apply is to be part of a FFPA.</p> <p>Can you explain a little bit more and send or publish in the Website of the call the list of the FFPA eligible for this call?</p>	<p>Please note that there is no condition in the guidelines for applicants to be “part of an FFPA”, nor is there a list of FFPA available for this call.</p> <p>The financing framework partnership agreement (FFPA) referred to in the Guidelines for applicants is an agreement which has to be signed between the European Commission and the Government of Serbia for the period 2021-2027, which will set the specific provisions for the EU financial assistance in the country.</p> <p>As this agreement was not yet signed at the time of publication of this call for proposals, the note on page 2 of the guidelines was introduced in order to alert the applicants that in case the FFPA is not signed between the European Commission and the Government of Serbia in due time, it is possible that contracts might not be awarded under this call for proposals.</p>
2.	<p>Our organisation want to apply on this call</p> <p>We have a small problem with registration on Pador</p> <p>Can you help us and give us the instruction how to do that</p>	<p>PADOR is accessible via the website: <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/funding/looking-for-funding_en">https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/funding/looking-for-funding_en</a></p> <p>Before starting using PADOR and PROSPECT, please read the user guides available on the website. All technical questions related the use of these systems should be addressed to the IT helpdesk at <a href="mailto:INTPA-SUPPORT-SERVICES@ec.europa.eu">INTPA-SUPPORT-SERVICES@ec.europa.eu</a> via the online support form in PROSPECT.</p> <p>Kindly note that the EU Delegation cannot provide technical support on the use of these applications.</p>
3.	Please confirm that Declaration on honour	As noted in the Guidelines for Applicants,

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	on exclusion criteria and selection criteria (Annex H) should be signed only by the lead applicant.	<p>section 2.4, on page 28, Declaration on honour on exclusion criteria and selection criteria (Annex H) <b>must be filled in and signed by the lead applicant as well as all co-applicants and affiliated entities.</b></p> <p>These filled in and signed Declarations on Honour <u>should be submitted in PROSPECT</u> and uploaded under the Tab “4 Documents - Declaration by the applicant, Mandate for co-applicants (when required), Affiliated entities statement (when required) - Annex H - Declaration of honour on exclusion and selection criteria”.</p> <p>Please note that the Declaration on Honour template is provided as Annex H in the “Documents to be completed” and <u>it is an additional document</u> to be submitted, together with the “Declaration by the Applicant” at the stage of the concept note and at the stage of the full application.</p>
4.	In the Documents to be completed folder, <i>Annex L: Self-evaluation questionnaire on SEA-H</i> is a new document. Who should fill it in and where does it need to be submitted?	<p>On page 28 of the Guidelines for applicants, all details are provided related to this document.</p> <p>This questionnaire should be filled in by the lead applicant as well as all co-applicants and affiliated entities. Please note that the self-evaluation questionnaire on SEA-H <u>should be submitted via PADOR.</u></p>
5.	In Annex B – Budget, the lines 5.3 Expenditure verification/Audit and 5.4 Evaluation costs have a “N/A” note. Does this mean that the budget for the proposal should not include audit and evaluation costs?	<p>Correct.</p> <p>As in line with the Guidelines for applicants, page 14, the expenditure verification(s) referred to in Article 15.7 of the general conditions to the standard grant contract will be carried out by the contracting authority or any external body authorised by the contracting authority. Therefore, this cost should not be included in the budget of the application.</p> <p>Evaluation costs are not eligible costs under this Call for proposals and therefore should not be included in the budget submitted with the application.</p>
6.	We are a foundation and we are publisher of a media outlet. Are we eligible to participate in this call?	<p>Please note that the Contracting authority cannot give prior opinion on eligibility of an applicant. All the eligibility criteria for the lead applicant which are listed in section 2.1.1. should be fulfilled. It is up to the applicant to check whether they fulfil the criteria.</p> <p>Please be reminded the eligibility of co-</p>

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		applicants is also extended to Civil society organisations and Cultural and educational institutions.
7.	The majority of local media have outsourced financial managers. They are actually bookkeeping agencies, so can you explain how to budget outsourced agencies, something that normally should be in the budget of human resources?	We advise you to consult the User's Guide on implementation of grant contracts, a link to which is provided at the end of the Guidelines for applicants. The cases of Consultants (v. employees) and the specific case of "in-house consultants" and the conditions they need to fulfil are explained in chapter 19.3.1.2. Eligible direct costs of the User's guide.
8.	In my experience, partnerships are usually of more or less equal partners, and here we have huge difference in the financial strength of partners, if we are to partner with local media. Is that something that should be taken into consideration by the evaluation committee because we have this very big difference on financial strength, of the lead partner and local partners?	The financial capacity is assessed during the full application stage only for the lead applicant, and not for the co-applicants.
9.	Should external evaluation of the project be budgeted or not?	Please see reply to question 5.
10.	Can media which are, technically speaking, state owned or state registered organisations, which receive money from the state primarily, be eligible to participate.	Please note that the Contracting authority cannot give prior opinion on eligibility of an applicant. However, in the eligibility criteria there is no restriction whether the applicants or co-applicants should be private or publically owned, nor what their source of financing is. We kindly remind you that salary costs of the personnel of national administrations are not eligible cost.
11.	What is the procedure of payments in order to be sure that for a project of two years we will have enough recourses for the entire project?	The different payment options, depending on the amount and duration of the grant, are explained in art. 15 of Annex II General conditions, which is available in the folder Documents for information. Please note that in all cases the balance of the final amount of the grant, if any, is paid after the implementation of the activities is finalised.
12.	Can you please explain in more details the requirements with reference to persons with disability, as well as impact of disinformation?	There is no requirement for applicants to cover issues of disability and the impact of disinformation. These are topics among others in the list of topics that the contracting authority deems as very relevant for this call for proposals. Applicants can chose the topics they wish to cover in line with their capacities, specialization and experience. There is no requirement to cover all topics.
13.	Is it possible to have only one main partner, only one applicant, or we have to find at least one other partner?	Applicants can apply either by themselves only or with co-applicants. It is not mandatory to have co-applicants for this call for proposals.

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