



EUROPEAN UNION

EUROPEAN UNION OFFICE IN KOSOVO

Pristina, Sep 2023
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Framework Partnership Agreements and associated annual operating grants

EuropeAid/178384/DD/FPA/XK

Clarification points No. 1 received by e-mail

GENERAL REMARK: According to the provisions made in the Section 2.2.1.4 of the Guidelines for 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 proposed under the grant scheme referred. Therefore, all the clarifications provided below regard general aspects brought into discussion and potentially applicable to all applicants, and not strictly applicable to a specific lead applicant, co-applicant, affiliated entity, action or activity.

Clarification points No. 1 received by e-mail

<p><u>Question 1:</u></p> <p>We would like to seek for clarifications regarding the call EuropeAid/178384/DD/FPA/XK "EU Civil Society Facility and Media Programme for Kosovo – 2023"</p> <p>In page 12 of the guideline, the eligibility criteria for applicants restrict to organisation established in the Republic of Kosovo. Given that this project is funded by the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), article 28 of the NDICI - Global Europe Regulation provides a list of eligible countries, including the EU Member States.</p> <p>May you confirm if it applies for this call?</p>	<p><u>Answer 1:</u></p> <p>Although the IPA instrument allows to provide funding to any CSOs from the EU Member States, given the specific nature of the call, which aims at strengthening Kosovo CSOs, we are targeting only CSOs established in Kosovo.</p> <p>As per Article 28, under point 9 of the same Regulation, it further reads: <i>'The eligibility rules laid down in this Article may be restricted with regard to the nationality, geographical location or nature of applicants, where such restrictions are required on account of the specific nature and the objectives of the action and where they are necessary for its effective implementation.'</i></p>
<p><u>Question 2:</u></p> <p>I would like to ask for your support in regard to the following question: "Our organization has been officially registered in Kosovo in December 2020 and became</p>	<p><u>Answer 2:</u></p> <p>Under section 2.1.1 Eligibility of applicants of the Guidelines for grant applicants, under point f) it is required that applicants/ CSOs <u>must have worked for minimum three years</u></p>

<p>operational with 1st of January 2021, so we are in the third year of functioning. We would very much like to apply to this call, but first we need your answer in regard to this eligibility criteria." I thank you very much in advance for your answer!</p>	<p>(namely 36 months) over the last six years in Kosovo in the area of the Lot it is applying to.</p> <p>Therefore, if the applicant cannot meet this criterion and any other criteria stated under this section, it will be deemed as not eligible for this call and the proposal will be discarded at the eligibility evaluation phase.</p>
<p><u>Question 3:</u></p> <p>First, I would like to thank you for the info session on Wednesday and clarifying a lot of the misunderstandings regarding the FPA. However, we still have some questions and would appreciate if you could answer them as well.</p> <p>a) During the session you mentioned that for the Mental Health lot it would be problematic to tackle all the objectives in the guidelines with the assumption that it could require too many resources, so prevention and awareness should be a bigger priority. Our NGO is part of the work group that is drafting the new law for mental health and we are also currently working on monitoring mental health services across Kosovo, meaning that policy development and advocacy are an integral part of our strategy together with awareness raising and prevention. Our question is if we should keep policy development as our main focus on the budget or if we should shift that focus to awareness and prevention?</p> <p>b) It was also mentioned that for the application a financial statement and balance sheet will be required. Will you be needing them only for last year or for previous years as well, if so, from which year?</p>	<p><u>Answer 3:</u></p> <p>a) The comment made during the information session pointed out that it may be impossible to tackle all the indicative points included in the guidelines, therefore CSOs should choose the aspect(s) where they assess they could contribute more. As such, the Contracting Authority does not prioritise one aspect over the other and leave it to the organizations to decide and duly justify depending on their competence, needs assessment, prioritization, upcoming legal / political moments, etc.</p> <p>b) As indicated under Section 2.3 EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP APPLICATIONS, STEP 2, the applicant has to submit copies of its latest accounts, the profit and loss account and the balance sheet for the last 3 financial years for which the accounts have been closed 2020, 2021 and 2022.</p>