



EUROPEAN UNION

EUROPEAN UNION OFFICE IN KOSOVO / EUROPEAN UNION
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Pristina, 08 May 2019

**Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Kosovo*- The Republic of North Macedonia under
IPA II 2016 and 2017**

EuropeAid/163284/DD/ACT/XK

Clarification Points and Clarifications during the Information Sessions

Clarification points

Question 1:

I am writing to ask for clarification regarding the "eligibility of applicants (i.e. lead applicant and co-applicant(s))" within the call for proposals Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Kosovo*- The Republic of North Macedonia under IPA II 2016 and 2017.

Under "co-applicants" (page 9), it seems this section qualifies and disqualifies (at the same time) the very same list of institutions/organizations like that of "lead applicants". In the case of "co-applicants", the only difference is that the line "NGOs".

My question is: are NGOs qualified to apply as co-applicants within this call for proposals?

Answer 1:

Please note that according to point 2.1.1 of the Guidelines for applicants, Eligibility of applicants (i.e. lead applicant and co-applicant(s)) Co-applicants can be a specific type of institution or organisation such as NGOs in the fields related to the call thematic priorities, but shall satisfy the other eligibility criteria as applicable to the lead applicant.

Question 2:

Regarding Priority 3 (Lot 2): Protecting the environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management, we want to ask if the program supports the procurement of vehicles whose purpose is in the above context.

Also, I ask you if possible, the answer to the question to be delivered by e-mail.

Answer 2:

Please note that to ensure equal treatment of applicants, the contracting authority **cannot give a prior opinion** on the eligibility of lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entity(ies), **on proposed actions or specific activities.**

No individual replies will be given to questions. All questions and answers as well as other important notices to applicants during the course of the evaluation procedure will be published on the website of DG International Cooperation and Development <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome> and the

website of the programme <http://cbc-ks-mk.com/> and the contracting authority https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kosovo_en.

Clarifications during the Information Sessions

Question 1:

In relation to call for proposal EuropeAid/163284/DD/ACT/XK Cross Border Cooperation Programme Kosovo- North Macedonia could you please explain to us the meaning of the sentence/ rules “The lead Applicant and co-applicant(s) must represent different legal entities” on page 9 of the guidelines?

Answer 1:

According to the Guidelines for grant applicants the Lead applicant and co-applicant must be two different legal entities as described in the section 2.1.1. Eligibility of applicants (i.e. lead applicant and co-applicant(s)).

Question 2:

The percentage (%) of co-financing in other calls for proposal under IPA II Programme 2014-2020 is 15%. Having in mind that, NGO potentially as co-applicant and they are not public profits making bodies the percentage of co-funding, minimum of 15% & maximum of 49 % for eligible applicants, will be a huge problem for us to apply with such high % of co-financing even applying with municipalities. Does the Contracting Authority have accounted that this might be a problem?

Answer 2:

Referring to section 1.3. *Financial allocation* provided by the Contracting Authority the minimum and maximum of EU contribution for eligible applicants is set based on Cross Border Cooperation program.

Question 3:

The 15 % of co-financing amount as presented in guidelines for all potential applicants in North Macedonia will be reimbursed by the Ministry of Local Self Government?

Answer 3:

In relation to call for proposal Europe Aid/163284/DD/ACT/XK Cross Border Cooperation Programme Kosovo-North Macedonia, based on North Macedonia Government law respectfully the Ministry of Local Self Government will cover the 15% of co-financing, but only for activities implemented in North Macedonia programme area.

Question 4:

Can you please tell what does it mean by stipulating that at least 70% of eligible cost should be dedicated to investments?

Answer 4:

As stipulated in Guidelines for grant applicant, Section 1.3 1.3. *FINANCIAL ALLOCATION PROVIDED BY THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY among others* it's specified:

- At least 70% of eligible costs should be dedicated to investment(fixed assets, works and equipment), including the cost for design and supervision of works

This means that when preparing your action you should take this note into account

Question 5:

Please can you explain to us how the funds should be divided among partners/applicants? Should the main applicant be from Kosovo or from the North Macedonia?

Answer 5:

Please refer to Guidelines for grant applicants Section 2.1.1 on eligibility of applicants. Furthermore, please do refer to section 2.1.4, in genuine cross-border operations, the applicant and co-applicant(s) shall cooperate in the development and implementation of the action. In addition, they shall cooperate in either the staffing or the financing of the action, or both.

Question 6:

Does the Contracting Authority have any preference on who should be leading the project, meaning does necessary the Lead applicant should be from Kosovo or North Macedonia?

Answer 6:

The Contracting Authority does not impose any regulation in order to apply apart those that are in Guidelines for grant applicants referring to Section 2. RULES FOR THIS CALL FOR PROPOSALS - it is the internal agreement on the role and responsibilities of each applicant in reaching partnership among interested parties.

Question 7:

Will the requested funds need to be divided for Lead applicant, co-applicant and potential affiliated entities?

Answer 7:

Referring to answer No. 5

Question 8:

What is the size of the grants for potential applicants?

Answer 8:

Please do refer to section 1.3. Financial Allocation provided by the Contracting Authority:

Any grant requested under this call for proposals must fall between the following minimum and maximum amounts:

	Minimum amount of EU-funded grant	Maximum amount of EU-funded grant
Lot 1		
Priority 2: Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage	EUR 150,000.00	EUR 350,000.00

Lot 2		
Priority 3: Protecting the environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management	EUR 250,000.00	EUR 500,000.00

Any grant requested under this call for proposals (Lot 1 and Lot 2) must fall between the following minimum and maximum percentages of total eligible costs of the action:

- Minimum percentage: **51%** of the total eligible costs of the action.
- Maximum percentage: **85%** of the total eligible costs of the action (see also section 2.1.5).

Important notes:

- **At least 70% of eligible costs should be dedicated to investment(fixed assets, works and equipment), including the cost for design and supervision of works**
- **The costs for Human Resources and Local Office must not exceed the 25% of the total eligible costs. Indirect costs must not exceed 2 % of the estimated total eligible direct costs.**
- **The grant beneficiary will use only PRAG rules**

Question 9:

Should the co-applicant be registered in PADOR?

Answer 9:

Please refer to Guidelines for grant applicants section 2.2. How to apply and the procedures to follow whereby it's stipulated:

To apply for this call for proposals the lead applicants need to:

- I. Provide information about the organisations involved in the action. Please note that the registration of this data in PADOR is obligatory for this call for proposals:

Concept note step: Registration is obligatory for lead applicants applying for EU contributions of more than EUR 60 000.

Question 10:

Can a NGO registered in the North Macedonia but their HQ it's on the other countries apply under this call? Furthermore, our organization is registered within the Foreign Affairs in North Macedonia?

Answer 10:

Please see section *2.1.1 Eligibility of applicants* (i.e. lead applicants and co-applicants). It's to be noted that the applicants must be effectively established in either Kosovo or the Republic of North Macedonia and NOT only registered.