



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY
Communication Unit

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2021CE16BAT001

'Support for information measures relating to the EU Cohesion policy'

Questions & Answers (Q&As)

07/12/2021

You will find below a list of questions received for this call for proposals. Please note that the present document aims to complement and clarify the call for proposals and does not replace it. A Q&As document will be periodically published; applicants are invited to check this website regularly.

Q1. Could we spread information about EU Cohesion's policy through 2014-2020 European projects, but they are concluded or next to be concluded.

A1. Applicants are free to propose communication measures which discuss results and projects from previous, as well as the current, funding periods.

Q2. Do we have to spread information about EU Cohesion policy in general, about EU Cohesion policy in Cordoba province or EU Cohesion policy in general focused on Cordoba province.

A2. Applicants can propose information measures which discuss Cohesion policy in general, or its effects on a specific Member State, or even a specific region or province. However it is preferable that the information measures highlight the overall aims and impact of Cohesion policy.

Q3. Do we have to have a European partner?

A3. As per point 6.1 of the Call for proposals, only applications from legal entities established in EU Member States are eligible.

Q4. Regarding the call for proposals 2021CE16BAT001 (Support for information measures relating to EU Cohesion policy), please clarify the obligations of the beneficiary (private entity, SME) of the grant regarding the acquisition process. In particular, the call for proposals mentions:

"11.7 Other financial conditions

c) Implementation contracts/subcontracting

Where the implementation of the action requires the award of procurement contracts (implementation contracts), the beneficiary may award the contract in accordance with its usual purchasing practices provided that the contract is awarded to the tender offering best value for money or the lowest price (as appropriate), avoiding conflicts of interest."

What are the requirements regarding the publicity of the acquisition procedure? Can the acquisition procedures be done in a direct manner (with a supplier, provided all parties provided a declaration regarding the absence of conflict of interest), or what other criteria must be met (and where can we find such criteria)?

In the case of Romania, where the SME is based, there is a national regulation (Order of the Ministry for European Funds no. 1284/2016), that imposes certain publicity measures for service and goods acquisitions larger than 30.000 EUR. Is that order applicable for SMEs beneficiaries of this grant?

A4. As indicated in the three first paragraphs of Point 11.7 c) of the Call for proposals:

“Where the implementation of the action requires the award of procurement contracts (implementation contracts), the beneficiary may award the contract in accordance with its usual purchasing practices provided that the contract is awarded to the tender offering best value for money or the lowest price (as appropriate), avoiding conflicts of interest.

The beneficiary is expected to clearly document the tendering procedure and retain the documentation in the event of an audit.

Entities acting in their capacity as contracting authorities within the meaning of Directive 2014/24/EU or contracting entities within the meaning of Directive 2014/25/EU must comply with the applicable national public procurement rules.”

It is the responsibility of applicants to check the requirements that they have to comply with in order to respect the above conditions.

Q5. I would need some additional clarification regarding the following statement in the call description rules regarding the costs of personnel working under an employment contract with the beneficiary:

“They may also comprise additional remunerations, including payments on the basis of supplementary contracts regardless of the nature of those contracts, provided that they are paid in a consistent manner whenever the same kind of work or expertise is required, independently from the source of funding used.”

Could you provide me with some examples of it?

My examples could be:

- The first case – I am working as a senior project specialist for my institution. Hopefully our new project will get the grant, then I will be appointed as a project manager to lead a team who deliver the action under this grant. Usually I am not employed as a project manager in the University. The employment regulations of the University allow to pay me additional money if I am appointed for this role. Could this extra remuneration be eligible as a personnel cost in the project?
- The second case – I have to involve a person responsible for financial issues in the project. This person’s daily tasks are bit different than tasks in the project even if they are related to the financial matters. Could we consider extra money for this colleague as an additional remuneration due to tasks of the same financial nature but additional ones for her in this project?
- The third case – The same colleague might be ask to play totally different role in the project as there might be a need of her unusual assistance during the 2-day conference to take care of reception. Can the involvement of this person be eligible for the additional remuneration?

A5. There is no precise list of example of additional remunerations. We are not in a position at this stage to confirm whether a specific case would be eligible or ineligible as different factors must be taken into account. This must be analysed on a case by case basis. The personnel costs charged to a project receiving an EU grant should not be inflated, but remain in line with the usual remuneration policy of the beneficiary.

As indicated in Point 11.2.1 (a) of the Call for proposals, the cost of personnel may comprise additional remunerations, including payments on the basis of supplementary contracts regardless of the nature of those contracts, provided that they are paid in a consistent manner whenever the same kind of work or expertise is required, independently from the source of funding used.

This means that additional remunerations may be eligible if they comply with the above conditions and all requirements set in the call for proposals.

Q6. As we have already received support under the same call, are we eligible to apply for a new Call for Proposals - Support for information measures relating to the EU Cohesion policy to continue our activities further.

A6. As mentioned in section 6.1 of the call for proposals, *“applicants who participated in the calls launched by the European Commission in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 (Calls for proposals 2017CE16BAT063, 2018CE16BAT042, 2019CE16BAT117 and 2020CE16BAT099 respectively, for "Support for information measures relating to the EU Cohesion policy") are eligible notwithstanding the outcome of their previous applications.* “