



Public call for proposals for economic infrastructure projects (CFP EUPROPLUS 003 – 2022)

Frequently Asked Questions, 17, October, 2022. godine

This document serves as a record of the clarifications provided to interested parties in connection with the Public Call CFP EUPROPLUS 003-2022 in response to their questions raised orally, by telephone and at the information sessions of the Call, as well as all clarifications provided in writing, in response to emails received through the channels defined by the Invitation. This document summarizes the answers to all the questions asked and is created in both English and Serbian languages. In case of any discrepancies, the Serbian version will prevail.

I General criteria

No.	Question	Answer
Q1	Can a public procurement procedure conducted before signing a grant contract be accepted?	No. All project-related procurements must be processed during the contract period.
Q2	Can project activity related to visibility be envisaged by project budget?	Yes. Visibility measures are considered as project activities and can be envisaged by the budget, in the amount of up to five percent of the Project budget.
Q3	Can a project proposal be submitted when some of the works on the facility have already been carried out in the previous phase?	Yes, but the project proposal must refer to the final stage of construction that will contribute to a functional unit of the facility.
Q4	In case separate permits have been issued for specific segments of the infrastructure (electricity, water supply, etc.) are they acceptable?	Yes, if they refer to the same functional unit.

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No.	Question	Answer
Q5	According to which Law the procurement procedure should be conducted?	According to the Law on Public Procurement of the Republic of Serbia.
Q6	Can the same Regional Development Agency be a partner on multiple projects?	Yes, the Regional Development Agency may be a partner on multiple projects.
Q7	Can local government co-funding be bigger than 49%?	Yes. There are no restrictions on the contribution amount, only required minimum amount dependent on the development level of the LSG
Q8	Is it necessary in case of infrastructure projects to include the institutions which project is related as a partner in the project?	Yes, if the building permit is issued to the institution as the investor.
Q9	Can decisions issued under Article 145 of the Law on Planning and Construction be accepted beside the building permit?	Yes.
Q10	What is meant by a tourist destination?	<p>For the purpose of this Call, tourist destination is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Determined narrow or wider spatial area in which tourism activities are realized, and that area can be any that has tourist capacities, as well as each region where several tourist centres are located.- Complex of various recreational and social contents situated in one locality.- Destination can be a vacation spot or business centre that tourists are visiting and staying. It can be one area or even the country within which they travel. <p>The most effective definition of the destination: one or more places/locations in which tourists come and stay, and which are the main goal of their movement.</p>

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No.	Question	Answer
Q11	Will the reserve list be formed after the first phase?	No. There will be only a ranking list of projects.
Q12	Is it possible to apply for the reconstruction of part of the facility within the call for economic infrastructure, in the part of the zone where the investor exists?	Yes, if it is a functional unit.
Q13	If the relevant strategy in the connection to the project proposal has expired, can it be accepted in this case?	Yes. Unless a new strategy is adopted, the existing one with an expired deadline specified in the document will be considered acceptable, if the measures foreseen by the document to which the proposal refers to are not exhausted.
Q14	What proves that team members are employed in the local administration?	Acceptable evidence is the Contract or the MA form.
Q15	Is it necessary to plan the costs of an independent external audit of the technical documentation?	Yes, in case of preparation of technical documentation within LOT 3 which is subject to a revision according to the Law on planning and construction. For technical documentation from LOT 1 and LOT 2, the costs of preparatory activities for review and tender preparation, in case needed, are envisaged in the budget, limited to the 1% of the total budget.
Q16	Do applications with partnerships included get higher scores?	In line with the application criteria of this Call, higher scores are not foreseen for partnerships .
Q17	The Call reads that feasibility studies are only to be submitted for new zones so the question is if such studies are needed for reconstruction of business centres, science technology parks and innovation centres.	In case of LOT 3, if financing is requested for projects that form a completely new industrial zone, it is necessary to submit a pre- feasibility study or any other study that would prove the economic justification of the choice, all with the aim of reducing the risks that new undeveloped zones carry. For other projects from LOT 3, it is not necessary to submit a pre-feasibility study. For all projects from LOT 1 and LOT 2, it is preferable to submit (if any) a justification study or an investment program or any other study that is a relevant indicator of the socio-economic justification of the investment.

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No.	Question	Answer
Q18	If the project relates to interventions in sustainable tourism, there is no way to provide Letters of intent from investors so the question is what document would be necessary to prove the relevance of the interventions?	The relevance of interventions can be proven via extracts from relevant strategies (in specific for tourism), with detailed analysis of the issues being addressed with the proposal, substantiated with quantifiable data and with assessment of the effects. The letters of intent are not required.
Q19	How is the number of potential beneficiaries justified w?	Letters of intent should contain as much information on investors capacity, and plan for new investments and employment. All other relevant data should be collected from the available databases, such as number of unemployed, number of educational profiles suitable for new investors etc.
Q20	How will the local self-government, within LOT 3, prove that it has been working on attracting investments for the proposed technical documentation?	An applicant can describe if there is a formal body in the LSG that works on attracting investments for the subject documentation. Also, if certain activities have already been initiated in this regard they should be described and proven. The best modality is that LSG provides technical documentation for already known investor, in which case all parameters for its development will be known and LSG would present letter of intent for such project
Q21	What can be considered as a proof of LSG co-financing in the project? Would a statement on available funds suffice?	Proof that funds are available from sources other than the European Union is considered as a statement on availability of co-funding and exert from the budget, indicating appropriate budget line with available funds foreseen as a source for contribution.

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No.	Question	Answer
Q22	When it comes to implementation in phases, is it necessary to prove that the previous phase has been completed?	Yes, it is necessary to document the completion of the previous phase.
Q23	Kosjerić is a small and devastated area but is in the II development group. Can this be changed in any way?	Bonus points will remain as stated in the Call. Bonus points were assign as per official national categorisation, so this can not be altered
II Financial distribution and cost sharing contribution		
Q24	Can the co-funding from ministries be considered as co-funding?	Yes. Any non EU funds could be considered as co-funding.
Q25	What happens to the co-funding ratio if a lower price is achieved through public procurement?	In that case, the budget has to be revised, so the minimum percentage of LSG co-funding remains as per the proposition of the Call. In case it was at minimum in the proposal, the EU PRO Plus portion must be decreased to sustain in the appropriate ratio.
Q26	Are the costs for the Project manager allowed?	No, the costs of HR resources for management of the project will not be accepted, as considered internal to LSG as formally employed in local administration. They will perform the activities as a part of their daily duties and their salaries are not eligible for co-funding.
Q27	Can the participation of the Public Investment Management Office be considered co-funding?	Yes. If the funds are registered in at the project budget and are placed at the joint sub account for the project.

III Subject of the Call for Proposals

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No.	Question	Answer
Q28	Is construction of the public lighting, rein sewage of sidewalks considered an economic infrastructure?	Only in case it refers to improvement of the business/tourist zone, either through works or through development of technical documentation.
Q29	Is the economic project the road to the biomass heating plant?	In case there is a proven benefit to the economy (new or existing companies that would create new jobs as a result of being connected to a new heating system, or tourist zone that will increase its potential or ensure sustainability as a result of being connected to the new ecological power plan etc. In this case heating installations are considered as the primary source of benefits, so without a wider context it would be hard to find justification for constructing the road to the biomass plant.
Q30	Can land purchase be considered as eligible?	No.
Q31	Is it possible to apply with the reconstruction project?	Yes, if it refers to economic infrastructure.
Q32	Is it possible to apply with the project for construction of road infrastructure to the industrial facility?	It is possible only in case of construction of a service road within the zone.
Q33	Is it allowed to apply with the same project the LSG already applied to the ministry?	Yes in case funding was not obtained for the same works for which the Ministry already approved the funding.
Q34	Will existing investors who intend to expand production within the zone be taken into account during the evaluation of the investments and generated jobs.	Yes. In case infrastructure intervention contributes to expansion of capacities of the existing investors, and as a result new jobs are generated, then justified values of new investments and number of new generated jobs will be evaluated.

IV Application submission procedure

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No.	Question	Answer
Q35	Can a project proposal for construction be submitted without a permit?	Only for the concept phase, where it is not obligatory to elaborate on the status of technical documentation. For step two, with submission of the full application, it is necessary to submit a permit with relevant technical documentation. .
Q36	Is it necessary to appoint a project team when applying?	Yes. It is necessary to appoint the project team and attach CVs of all team members as well as the proof of employment for the full application phase. .
Q37	Does the application have to be in English?	All application documentation from EU PRO Plus site within the Call for Economic Infrastructure must be in English, while supporting documents (construction permit, contracts, letters of intent, MA forms, technical documentation, feasibility studies etc) do not have to. .
Q38	How many applications are allowed?	Each local self-government can apply with only one application.
Q39	Is there a requirement for a FIDIC type of contract?	No, each LSG suggests the contract modality as per their usual practice.

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Q40	Is it possible to get consultations for aspects of improvement of management during development of an application or to get consultations for preparation of application form in general?	The consultations will be available during info sessions and in the form of Q&A through official website. / Konsultacije će biti moguće tokom info sesija i u formi pitanja i odgovora preko zvaničnog web sajta.
Q41	Can the letter of intent with the investor be considered as sufficient evidence?	Yes, with a note that the scoring will be based on the type of document provided, e.g. the Contract with potential investor will be scored differently from letter of intent.
Q42	Is it mandatory to submit Location Conditions for designing for technical documentation projects (LOT 3)?	No. The requested supporting documentation for the second phase of the call is an excerpt from the cadastre and from the planning document as well as the Location information.
Q43	What is the allowed file size for sending the application?	1 TB. Application process is to be done through Google forms.
Q44	Do the statement on availability of co-funding have to be submitted together with the concept note?	The statement on the availability of funds is not necessary to be submitted with the concept note.
Q45	Are there any limitations in the number of words while filling in the concept notes?	There is a limitation only in the section "summary" and it is set to max 100 words, other sections do not have limitations.

V Project implementation

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- Q46** Does the co-funding of local self-governments appear on each invoice? No, the invoices do not contain a source of funding and each invoice does not have to be funded partially from donation and partially from contribution.
- Q47** When will the results of the call be announced? In accordance with the indicative schedule given in the guidelines for preparing the project proposal, the results will be published in February 2023.
- Q48** How can the connection between the project and the strategies be proven? It is necessary to provide a link with the indication of the page in the document or an excerpt from the document in which the connection with the project is indicated. In case document is not published, than document should be submitted with highlighted relevant paragraph.
- Q49** If a partnership is created with the Regional Development Agency (RDA), can the agency's costs be justified? RDAs can be partners on projects and they could fund joint activities foreseen in the budget from a dedicated sub account opened by grantee for financing of project activities. UNOPS Grant Support Agreement General Conditions which are harmonized with national legislation do not allow payment of funds as profit or reimbursement to a grantee or a partner on the project. Taking into consideration that a partner and a lead organization have the same roles and obligations on the project, transfer of funds to a partner organisation for delivered services based on an invoice or contract on services is not allowed.



- Q50** Do the activities on improvement of management of the subject of the infrastructure intervention have to be represented in the logical matrix? Yes, if they are a subject of the proposal.
- Q51** Is the co-funding from local self-government exempt from value added tax? Yes, all funds related to the project are VAT exempted.
- Q52** What will happen if the proposed grant manager is hired on another EU funded project and exceeds 100% of the working time? Is it possible to replace the grant manager later? Yes, it is possible to replace the grant manager during implementation with the prior approval of the programme.
- Q53** Is it possible to include a specialist or engineer from a public company or other public institution in the implementation team and, if yes, should that institution be a formal partner? A member of the implementation team may be a specialist or engineer from a public company or other public institution, but this institution does not have to be a project partner.
- Q54** Is it possible to plan co-funding within two annual budgets? Co-funding needs to be planned from the budget line within the annual budget and considering that the implementation of this Call is limited to 15 months and one construction season, replanning of the portion of the funds for the subsequent annual budget would not be possible.



- Q55** Does a member of the public Implementation team member can be a person procurement team have to be licensed for who is regularly responsible for public that job, or it may be a person who is procurement, does not have to be licensed. regularly engaged in a local government or a public procurement company?
- Q56** Can procurement of equipment be Procurement of the equipment is an eligible cost. considered eligible costs and in terms of Limitation to 30 % when equipment is in question, the budget allocated for procurement, is it is set to EU PRO Plus, i.e. donor funding . The 30% limited to 30 % of the total project budget of EU PRO Plus funding is the only amount that or 30 % of the donor funds? may be spent on the equipment out of the total budget amount.
- Q57** What is the recommendation in terms of The budget needs to be harmonized with the cost budget having in mind that LSGs will go of eligible and relevant activities within this Call. for maximum amount? Is there any The LSGs are recommended to realistically assess evaluation criteria for awarding higher their financial capacities and plan the contribution values of contribution funds accordingly within the budget that will then be evaluated t within the evaluation of the full applications.