

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:
Culture and Creativity for the Western Balkans (CC4WBs)

Open Call for Proposals
Ref: CC4WBS002OR/2024

Published on: 8.04.2024

Question 1

Q: Can the Lead Applicant and partner be from the same Western Balkans country?

A: No, at least one Partner established in a different WBs IPA Beneficiary than the Lead Applicant is a requirement for the Proposal to be eligible.

Question 2

Q: As we were lead applicant in the previous call, we have questions that is not very well comprehensive for us in the guidelines. It is understandable that as we were leader in the previous call, in this call we can be only partners. Our question is, if one of our previous partners can be leading applicant for this call, and the two others can be partners? The consortium is the same as of the previous call. Is this allowed?

A: The Organizers of the Call would *encourage* the composition of new partnerships, in line with the objectives of the CC4WBs programme.

Question 3

Q: Can a local public authority be not a local government but a public agency owning property (who is legal owner of a publicly used property)?

A: Please refer to Section 2. "Who can apply?" of the Open Call for Proposals for the eligibility criteria. In this section, explanations on the eligibility of each potential status of the Lead Applicant / Partner(s) are provided.

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Question 4

Q: Can an MSME be an applicant?

A: No, please refer to Section 2 "Who can apply?" of the Open Call for Proposals for eligibility criteria.

Question 5

Q: Since the call first specifies that the lead applicant must be a CSO "registered" in one or more of the WBs IPA Beneficiaries (p. 2); and since on the same page it also states that the organization/institution must be "established" in one of the WBs IPA beneficiaries; can a CSO registered in any WB IPA Beneficiary as a branch of an EU organization apply as a leader? If not, can it apply as a partner?

A: Any organization/institution registered in any of the WB IPA Beneficiaries, in full respect of Section 2 "Who can apply?" of the Open Call for Proposals, is eligible to apply.

Question 6

Q: Following up on our previous query regarding the composition of the consortium for the current call, we have carefully reviewed the response provided by the organizers. It seems that the emphasis is on encouraging the formation of new partnerships rather than retaining the same consortium as in the previous call. This approach aligns with the objectives of the CC4WBs program, aiming for diversity and fostering fresh collaborations with each call. Based on this understanding, it appears that the organizers prefer not to allow one of the previous partners to transition into the leading applicant role for the current call while the other partners remain the same. This suggests a preference for introducing new leadership

and perspectives to each project cycle. Given this context, we would like to seek clarification regarding our potential participation. If we understand correctly, while we may not lead the consortium as we did in the previous call, we are eligible to participate as a partner organization, provided that we form a new consortium from the Western Balkans IPA Beneficiary Countries. And we can apply with the same context idea of the previous call but with another consortium, by extending our existing project? (This will allow us to maximize impact and achieve long-term sustainability.) Could you kindly confirm if this interpretation is accurate? We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your guidance on how we can proceed within the parameters outlined.

A: This understanding is correct.

Question 7

Q: If the Lead applicant or the partner has another ongoing EU-funded project, is it still eligible to receive funding from CC4WBs program?

A: Lead Applicant or Partner, implementing other EU funded projects, are eligible to apply with the project proposal under this Open Call that are NOT identical in scope and nature to the ongoing projects.

Question 8

Q: Are the dates of the projects defined, when does it start and when does it end?

A: The duration of the Project shall be at least three (3) months and up to fifteen (15) months (Section 7).

As per instructions provided in Form 4, months should be indicated with Month 1, Month 2 and not with names of months (June, July). For each of the activities, please indicate with an "X" for the month during which the activity will be implemented.

All applicants will be notified in writing about the decision regarding their proposal within 75 days of the deadline of the Open Call for Proposals (Section 13). This is followed by a contracting process that may take a few weeks.

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Question 9

Q: How will the bank charges, the exchange rates and the personal and other taxes be covered?

A: Banking fees related to the project activities payments can be budgeted under the administrative costs, both in Form 2A Budget template and in Form 2B Budget template.

Please note that banking charges for the transfers from and to the Contractors and currency exchange losses are non-eligible expenditures (as per Section 6 of the Open Call for Proposals). Furthermore, the Contractor will not disburse additional funds for bank charges related to transfer of money. Each Contractor will explain to the awarded grantee how to convert the received funds for reporting purposes.

Also, the payment of VAT and duty charges recoverable/deductible by the Lead Applicant and Partner(s) are non-eligible expenditures. Thus, VAT is not accepted, however, if the process of exemption or reimbursement is not successful, VAT costs will be considered eligible costs.

Social security charges (taxes and contributions) related to salaries, as per local legislation, are eligible expenditures and should be budgeted.

Question 10

Q: In the description about the Thematic window 4, it is not clear if the proposal should be directly linked to a heritage site. The last point on the list of domains that can be covered is

mentioned: development of heritage-based creative industries including the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. Basically, the question is if proposals in this window could refer to intangible cultural heritage?

A: Yes, proposals can include intangible cultural heritage, if the project activities are implemented with the community that carries that intangible cultural heritage.

Question 11

Q: We have a currently ongoing project in the WB region co-funded by the EU Commission. I would like to ask if we are still eligible for funding, even though we are already sponsored by the EU.

A: Lead Applicant or Partner, implementing other EU-funded projects, are eligible to apply with the project proposal under this Open Call that are NOT identical in scope and nature to the ongoing projects.

Question 12

Q: For co-financing, is it the lead partner that has to provide 10% of the total budget or each partner has to provide 10% as well?

A: The source of co-financing can be obtained from the Lead Applicant and/or the Partner(s), and/or from the external third party, as per agreed proportion. For grant values exceeding 10,000 EUR, the indicated minimum amount of co-financing is cumulative and not per partner.