



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

JUST/2015/SPOB/AG/VICT

Action grants to support victims of violence and crime

RIGHTS, EQUALITY AND CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME (2014-2020)
JUSTICE PROGRAMME (2014-2020)

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1. INTRODUCTION

This call for proposals for action grants is based on the 2015 annual work programmes¹ of the **Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC Programme)**² and of the **Justice Programme**.³ It combines funds of two calls included in these annual work programmes that both concern victims, but each from a different angle.

First, it aims to co-fund transnational projects that support victims of violence in line with the specific objective of the **Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme**: (i) to prevent and combat all forms of violence against children, young people and women, as well as other groups at risk of violence in close relationships; and (ii) to protect the victims of such violence (Daphne strand).

Second, it aims to co-fund transnational and national projects that enhance the rights of crime victims in line with the specific objective of the **Justice Programme** to facilitate effective access to justice for all, including promoting and supporting the rights of victims of crime (Access to justice strand).

Proposals should aim to produce results with EU added value, as detailed in Section 4.5.

¹ Commission Implementing Decision of 30.03.2015 concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2015 and the financing for the implementation of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme, [C\(2015\) 1996/ Justice Programme, C\(2015\) 1997](#).

² [Regulation No 1381/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme for the period 2014-2020, OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 62.](#)

³ [Regulation No 1382/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a Justice Programme for the period 2014-2020 OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 73.](#)

Organisations interested in submitting applications should first read the **detailed terms and conditions set out in this call for proposals and the Guide for Action Grants** published together with this call and constituting an integral part of the conditions of the call.

2. PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED

The proposals under this call shall focus on the **priorities** as described in detail in section 2.1 on the Daphne strand and 2.2 on the Access to justice strand.

Proposals shall complement the efforts of the EU in the area of support and rights of victims. Applicants shall explain and demonstrate how their proposals are aligned with the respective EU policies and with the documents published by the European Commission and/or referred to under each priority. The degree of relevance to the priorities of the call for proposals will be assessed under the relevance award criterion. Although the continuation or follow-up of successful initiatives may be funded, the exact duplication of an initiative will not be funded.

The **Daphne strand** covers projects targeting victims or potential victims of violence who are children, young people, women, and/or other groups at risk of violence in close relationships. The **Access to justice strand** covers projects targeting any victims of any crime (thus not limited to victims of violence and not limited to children, young people, women and/or other groups at risk of violence in close relationships).

Projects under both strands should contribute to the effective and coherent implementation and practical application of EU law in the area of the rights of victims of crime, and in particular:

- Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime;
- Directive 2011/99/EU on the European Protection Order;
- Regulation (EU) 606/2013 on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters;
- Directive 2004/80/EC relating to compensation to crime victims.

2.1.1. Priorities and description of the activities to be funded under the Daphne strand⁴

The aim of the Daphne strand of the call is to contribute to the protection of and the support for victims or potential victims of violence who are children, young people, women and/or other groups at risk, in particular groups at risk of violence in close relationships.

Projects should be transnational and focus in particular on one or more of the following actions:

- Capacity building and training for professionals, in particular staff providing specialised victim support (e.g. through shelters and other forms of safe, accessible alternative accommodation, legal advice, medical and psychological counselling, helplines/hotlines, victim support organisations or other essential services for victims and their families);
- Capacity-building and training in relation to gender-specific issues and child-specific issues, in particular for professionals (police, teachers, medical practitioners, helpline staff) who are first points of contact for victims of violence so that they can better meet the specific needs of vulnerable victims, including signposting them to more specialist support services;
- Specific support programmes targeted in particular at the most vulnerable victims, such as refugees and migrants, people with disabilities, Roma, persons belonging

⁴ Relevant reference documents include:

General: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/acquis_rights_of_child.pdf,
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>
<http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=caselaw/HUDOC&c=>

Child protection systems: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/rights-child/protection-systems/index_en.htm; **Ten principles for integrated child protection systems**
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/2015_forum_roc_background_en.pdf

European Law Handbook: FRA/CoE/ECtHR Handbook on European law relating to rights of the child
<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2015/handbook-european-law-child-rights>

Child-friendly justice:
http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/childjustice/publicationsavailable_en.asp; https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_rights_of_the_child-257-en.do?clang=en ;
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/rights-child/friendly-justice/index_en.htm

Study on children's involvement in judicial proceedings EU28: Data:
www.childreninjudicialproceedings.eu - **Reports: Policy brief - Children's involvement in administrative judicial proceedings (June 2015) EU Summary and 29 country reports -Children's involvement in civil judicial proceedings (June 2015) EU Summary and 29 country reports - Children's involvement in criminal judicial proceedings (June 2014) EU Summary and 29 country reports**

Gender equality: - current strategy
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/strategy_equality_women_men_en.pdf
-The upcoming Strategic Engagement 2016-2019:
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/documents/151203_strategic_engagement_en.pdf -
Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM):
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/gender_based_violence/131125_fgm_communication_en.pdf-
Factsheet for the international day:
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-15-6150_en.htm
-Roadmap on the Istanbul Convention:
: http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/roadmaps/docs/2015_just_010_istanbul_convention_en.pdf

to national, ethnic or religious minorities, LGBTI, elderly women, children in alternative care and street children;

- Mutual learning, identifying and exchange of good practices, development of working methods which may be transferable to other participating countries;
- Awareness-raising activities, training and sharing of best practice among practitioners and/or support services about the rights of victims of violence and about the protection (including domestic protection orders and possible EU wide-extension on basis of the Directive 2011/99/EU and Regulation 606/13) and support available.

Proposed projects should have a clearly demonstrable impact on the lives of victims of violence and possible victims of violence. The main focus of the proposed projects should be on activities that directly improve the protection of victims of violence, the support for victims of violence, and/ or the enforcement of legislation supporting such victims in line with EU law, and serve to better integrate all agencies and components in existing systems.

Activities such as the development of materials, the mapping of existing materials or research should be, at most, minor components of project proposals. If included, the need should be solidly justified in the proposal. Proposals are expected to take an evidence-based approach and build on existing knowledge and research, referencing these in the proposal.

Projects proposed in relation to the EU legislation on protection measures should focus on initiatives (e.g. awareness raising, training of practitioners and support services and sharing of best practice) that contribute to ensuring that protection measures which are legally available in the Member States are effectively granted to victims of violence, applied and enforced in practice. Activities such as promoting the use of the European protection order (in both civil and criminal matters) in cross border case can be included but should not be a main component of the project proposal.

Projects must take a child-centred approach and/or a gender-sensitive approach depending on their target group. The projects should be multi-agency and where service delivery involves government authorities or state agencies or other entities mandated by the government, they should include formal government/mandated entity engagement for each participating country in the form of (associate) partner declarations describing the involvement. These aspects will be taken into account when evaluating the quality of proposals.

The proposed projects may allow for adaptations or customisation in line with the situation in individual countries, but the overall objectives and methods must be the same for all participating countries. The range of actors proposed for each participating country must be commensurate with the objectives.

The establishment of shelters or other infrastructure should not be the main aim of projects. The focus of projects should rather be on capacity-building or developing new mechanisms and methods, and the integration of system components thus ensuring sustainability after the end of projects.

2.1.2. Priorities and description of the activities to be funded under the Access to justice strand⁵

The aim of the Access to justice strand is to contribute to the implementation and practical application of Directive 2012/29/EU on establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, Directive 2011/99/EU on the European Protection Order, Regulation (EU) 606/2013 on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters and Directive 2004/80/EC relating to compensation to crime victims.

Projects can be either national or transnational, although projects that enable cross-fertilisation and involve ideas and best practices from more than one Member State are strongly recommended. Projects should focus in particular on one or more of the following actions:

- Mutual learning, exchange of good practices, development of working methods which may be transferable to other participating countries and which improve the practical application of any particular rights granted by the EU legislation;
- Capacity-building of relevant professionals (e.g. police, members of judiciary, social and medical workers, customs officials) on victims' needs for assistance, information, support, protection and compensation;
- Capacity building of staff at victim support organisations and restorative justice services on victims' needs when seeking their services (e.g. information, practical and legal advice, psychological counselling) and different ways to provide such services (e.g. telephone or internet helplines/hotlines);
- Development of information tools, exchange and provision of information, and dissemination and awareness raising activities on victims' rights under the EU rules;
- Facilitation of cooperation between competent authorities and agencies, legal practitioners and/or service providers (including multi-disciplinary networks at international, national, regional or local levels);
- Analytical activities, such as data collection and creation of data bases, surveys and research which clearly address gaps in the knowledge base on victims' rights in the EU and/or show how, taking an evidence-based approach, the EU victims' rights policy can be further developed;

Training activities can be funded under this call, as long as they are of ancillary nature and not the main purpose of the project.

⁵ See webpage for reference documents:
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/criminal/victims/index_en.htm

Setting up of general victims support organisations/organisational entities in terms of infrastructure should not be the main aim of projects. The focus of projects should rather be on capacity-building or developing practical mechanisms and methods laid down in the EU law (as individual assessment and referrals between the police and victim support) which integrate existing system components and ensure their sustainability after the end of projects. In this regard, where service delivery involves state agencies or authorities, or other entities mandated by government to provide services, the project design and implementation should formally include them.

Proposals are expected to take an evidence-based approach and build on existing knowledge and research, referencing these in the proposal.

2.2. For both strands

Proposals ensuring maximum practical benefits and impacts for the target groups will be more favourably assessed than projects consisting mainly of research and other analytical activities.

Proposals assessing the transposition of the above-listed legal instruments into national law are not a priority of this call.

Proposals under all priorities must make provisions to document the number of persons/professionals reached, provide anonymised data disaggregated by gender and by age and must describe in their grant application how this will be done.

If a project will involve direct contact with children, the applicant must describe the child protection policy it will adhere to (see 1.16 in *Annex 1 - Project Description and Implementation Form* and *Annex 8*).

The following types of activities will not be funded by the Commission:

- activities supporting individual political parties;
- provision of financial support to third parties;
- legal actions before national or international courts regardless of their grounds or objectives.

2.3. Mainstreaming

Projects funded under this call shall also seek to promote equality between women and men and the rights of the child. Gender and rights of the child mainstreaming means integrating a gender and rights of the child perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a project, as appropriate. Consequently, when relevant, the applicant shall take the necessary steps to ensure that gender equality and child-related issues are taken into account by paying attention to the situation and particular needs of women and men and of children. It is, for example, essential that projects do not silence, stereotype, stigmatise, lay the blame on or discriminate against women, and that on the contrary they contribute to empowering them and ensuring that they achieve their full potential and enjoy the same rights as men. Similarly, projects involving children or young people should take into account the best interests of the child, seek to prevent and address the stigmatisation of child victims and promote child participation and assure compliance with the rights included in the Fundamental Rights Charter and Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In response to calls by grant applicants for more guidance on how to effectively implement child participation, potential applicants are invited to take account of the following. With regard to child participation, in 2015, the Commission published its study on legislation, policy and practice on child participation in the 28 Member States of the EU.⁶ The child-led part of the research documents the direct and immediate benefits for children as a result of their participation, as well as wider benefits including empowerment and involvement in decisions that affect them, inclusion of marginalised children, active citizenship, better decision- and policy-making by adults and better services for children. The study references some good child participation practice, such as the participatory work done by SOS Children's Villages for children in alternative care, or Inclusion Europe's work to ensure the participation rights of children with disabilities⁷ or the Welsh initiatives: "Eat carrots: be safe from elephants", and the Participation Workers' Network.⁸ The resource catalogue resulting from the study provides a compilation of resources identified during the research that can be filtered by age group/type of participation/geographical scope/sector/setting or vulnerable group. Accessible guidance on how to ensure child participation is also contained in the Lundy Model of Participation and the Lundy Voice Model Checklist for Participation, designed by Professor Laura Lundy of Queen's University, Belfast.⁹ ¹⁰ Her models have, for example, been included in Ireland's National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making 2015-2020.¹¹

Projects funded under this call shall also comply with the prohibition of discrimination based on any of the grounds listed in Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (the "Charter"), in accordance with and within the limits set by Article 51 of the Charter. Among others the Commission encourages applicants to promote equal employment opportunities for all its staff and team. This entails that the beneficiary is encouraged to foster an appropriate mix of people, whatever their ethnic origin, religion, age, gender and ability.

Finally, all projects under this call shall respect and shall be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter.

While planning their project and preparing their application, applicants should take into account these requirements and demonstrate in their proposal how these requirements will be respected at implementation stage. Beneficiaries will be required to detail in their final activity report the steps and achievements made towards meeting these requirements.

⁶ [Final report - Children and young people's summary - Research summary - Resource catalogue - Reports for each of the 28 Member States](#)

⁷ http://www.childrights4all.eu/?page_id=114

⁸ http://www.ssiacymru.org.uk/home.php?page_id=4769 and <http://www.participationworkerswales.org.uk/>

⁹ Laura, Lundy (2007) "'Voice" is not enough: conceptualising Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child', British Educational Research Journal, 33:6, 927- 942

¹⁰ Lundy Model of Participation and Lundy Voice Model Checklist: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/lundy_model_child_participation.pdf

¹¹ Ireland, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making 2015-2020 (17 June 2015), p. 21-22. Accessible here: <http://dcya.gov.ie/documents/playandrec/20150617NatStratParticipationReport.pdf> and

3. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The indicative available budget under this call for proposals is:

- DAP-Daphne: 3 019 357 EUR
- ACC-Access to justice: 2 000 000 EUR

The Commission reserves the right not to award all available funds, and/or to redistribute the amounts per priority depending on the projects received and the outcome of the evaluation procedure.

4. EVALUATION PROCEDURE

All applications are subject to an evaluation process involving five sets of criteria. Firstly, the evaluators will check whether your submission complies with all the formal requirements according to admissibility, eligibility and exclusion criteria as listed below in sections 4.1. to 4.3.

Applicants that successfully pass this first stage will be subject to the verification of operational and financial capacity (selection criteria listed in section 4.4.) and their proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the award criteria of this call (listed in section 4.5.). For the verification of the selection criteria, the evaluators will check, based on the documents submitted, whether your organisations have sufficient financial, human and operational resources to carry out the activities described in *Annex 1- Project Description and Implementation Form*. For the evaluation of the award criteria, the evaluators will assess your proposal on its merits against the award criteria, giving points to each proposal.

Proposals will be evaluated by an evaluation committee composed of Commission staff. The committee may be assisted by external experts. The submitted proposals will be evaluated solely on the basis of the criteria outlined below. In most cases, admissibility, exclusion and eligibility criteria will be checked first, but the evaluation committee may decide to proceed in a different order or assess different sets of criteria in parallel.

4.1. Admissibility requirements

To be admissible applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- (a) Applications must be submitted no later than the deadline for submission referred to in section 8.
- (b) Applications must be submitted using the online application tool of Directorate-General Justice (PRIAMOS).
- (c) Applications must be submitted using the standard PRIAMOS Grant Application Form. They must include all the mandatory information and be accompanied by all the compulsory documents and annexes requested under section 7.3 of this call for proposals.

4.2. Eligibility criteria

To be eligible, applications must fulfil all of the following criteria. If a grant application is declared ineligible, it will not be considered for further evaluation and a rejection letter to that effect will be sent to the applicant.

4.2.1. Eligibility of the applicant and of the partners¹²

Applicants and partners must comply with the following requirements:

Daphne strand

- (a) **Legal status:** Applicants and partners must be legally constituted public or private organisations, or international organisations.

Bodies set up by the European Union falling under Article 208 of the Financial Regulations (EU bodies and institutions) are not eligible for funding and cannot submit applications. They can be associated to an application, but their costs will not be co-financed.

Only legally constituted organisations can participate. Natural persons (private individuals) are not allowed to submit applications.

- (b) **Non-profit:** The applicant must be a **non-profit organisation**.

Bodies and organisations which are profit-oriented shall have access to grants only as partners.

‘**Non-profit organisation**’ can be

1) a legal entity that is by its legal form non-profit-making; or

2) has a legal or statutory obligation not to distribute profits to its shareholders or individual members. The provision that profits will not be distributed must be clearly stipulated either in the law or in the statutes of the organisation; decisions on (not) distributing profits made by its managing board, associates, stakeholders, members or representatives are not sufficient proof of the non-profit nature.

- (c) **Eligible country:** Applicant and partners must be legally established in an eligible country. This is not applicable for International organisations.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Eligible countries¹³:

- ⇒ all the EU Member States;
- ⇒ Iceland.

¹² For definitions of Applicant, Partner and Associate partner, please refer to section I.3 of the Guide for Action Grants 2015.

¹³ If, before the deadline for submission of proposals, other countries (other EEA countries, candidate countries) join the programme, a notification will be placed on the call website informing applicants that organisations from such countries can participate as applicants or partners.

Access to justice strand

- (a) **Legal status:** Applicants and partners must be legally constituted public or private organisations, or international organisations.

Bodies set up by the European Union falling under Article 208 of the Financial Regulations (EU bodies and institutions) are not eligible for funding and cannot submit applications. They can be associated to an application, but their costs will not be co-financed.

Only legally constituted organisations can participate. Natural persons (private individuals) are not allowed to submit applications.

- (b) **Non-profit:** The applicant must be a **non-profit organisation**.

Bodies and organisations which are profit-oriented shall have access to grants only as partners.

‘**Non-profit organisation**’ can be

1) a legal entity that is by its legal form non-profit-making; or

2) has a legal or statutory obligation not to distribute profits to its shareholders or individual members. The provision that profits will not be distributed must be clearly stipulated either in the law or in the statutes of the organisation; decisions on (not) distributing profits made by its managing board, associates, stakeholders, members or representatives are not sufficient proof of the non-profit nature.

- (c) **Eligible country:** Applicant and partners must be legally established in an eligible country. This is not applicable for International organisations.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Eligible countries¹⁴:

⇒ the EU Member States, except for UK and DK¹⁵.

4.2.2. Eligibility of the application

Daphne strand

¹⁴ If, before the deadline for submission of proposals, other countries (EEA countries, candidate countries) join the programme, a notification will be placed on the call website informing applicants that organisations from such countries can participate as applicants or partners.

¹⁵ **UK:** UK chose not to participate in the Justice Programme and therefore organisations established in the UK cannot submit an application nor be partners in this call for proposals under the Justice Programme.

DK: DK does not participate in the Justice Programme. Therefore organisations established in DK cannot submit an application nor be partners in this call for proposals under the Justice Programme.

- (a) The project must be transnational and must be submitted by a partnership of eligible organisations (i.e. applicant and partners) from at least three different eligible countries as referred to under section 4.2.1 of this call notice; NB: Any associate partners participating in the project are not counted for the purposes of this criterion.
- (b) The EU grant requested cannot be lower than EUR 75 000. There is no upper limit.
- (c) Projects must not have started prior to the date of submission of the grant application.

Access to justice strand

- (a) Projects under this strand can be either national or transnational and may be submitted by a single applicant (in case of national projects only) or by a partnership of eligible organisations.
- (b) The EU grant requested cannot be lower than EUR 75 000. There is no upper limit.
- (c) Projects must not have started prior to the date of submission of the grant application.

4.3. Exclusion criteria

4.3.1. Exclusion from participation

Organisations (i.e. applicant and partners) will be excluded from participating in this call for proposals if they are in any of the following situations:

- (a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (b) they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment of a competent authority of a Member State which has the force of res judicata;
- (c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify including by decisions of the EIB and international organisations;
- (d) they are not in compliance with their obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of Belgium or those of the country where the grant agreement is to be performed;
- (e) they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering or any

other illegal activity, where such an illegal activity is detrimental to the Union's financial interests;

- (f) they are currently subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 109(1) of Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (Financial Regulation)¹⁶.

4.3.2. Exclusion from award

Organisations (i.e. applicant and partners) will not be granted financial assistance if, in the course of the grant award procedure, they:

- (a) are subject to a conflict of interest;
- (b) are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the Commission as a condition of participation in the grant award procedure or fail to supply this information;
- (c) find themselves in one of the situations of exclusion, referred to in section 4.3.1.

Administrative and financial penalties may be imposed on applicants who are guilty of misrepresentation.

4.4. Selection criteria

4.4.1. Financial capacity

Applicants and partners must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period for which the grant is awarded and to participate in its funding. Organisations participating in several projects shall have sufficient financial capacity to implement multiple projects.

For the purpose of demonstrating its financial capacity, the applicant must present its balance sheets and profit and loss accounts for the last two years available.

If the share of a grant requested by an organisation (applicant or partner)¹⁷ exceeds EUR 750 000, this organisation must submit an audit report produced by an approved external auditor certifying its accounts for the last closed financial year.

The following elements will be taken into account, among others, to assess the applicant's financial capacity:

- The applicant's dependency on EU financing;
- The applicant's deficit of the previous financial years;
- The applicant's revenue of the previous financial years;

¹⁶ OJ L298, 26.10.2012, p.1.

¹⁷ See the calculation in the Grant Application Form, section 1.5, column *Value of EU Contribution Expected*.

- The auditor's findings in the audit report (when applicable).

If the Commission considers that the financial capacity is not satisfactory, it may request further guarantees or impose risk mitigation measures (e.g. reduced or no pre-financing, bank guarantee covering the amount of pre-financing payment), or reject the application.

Please note that the financial capacity shall not be verified for public bodies or international organisations.

In case of applications submitted on behalf of a partnership, partners declare on their honour in the partner declaration that they possess financial capacity to implement the project. The Commission reserves the right to request financial documents also from partners.

4.4.2. Operational capacity

The applicant and the partners must have sufficient operational and professional capacities to implement the activities for which co-funding is requested. Organisations participating in several projects shall have sufficient operational capacity to implement multiple projects.

For the purpose of demonstrating its operational capacity, the applicant must present CVs of key staff involved in the project (employed by the applicant and the partners), who must have the necessary education, skills, experience and capacity to carry out the tasks that are assigned to them during the project. The applicant must also provide its annual technical/narrative reports for the last available year. Partner declarations may also be used when assessing this criterion.

Applicants may not be awarded a grant if they fail to demonstrate that they have the capacity, the experience and the expertise necessary for the successful implementation of the proposed activities.

4.5. Award criteria

The award criteria aim to ensure the selection of projects with a high inherent quality, which contribute as much as possible to the priorities of this call in a cost-effective manner. Synergies and complementarities with other Union instruments and programmes shall be sought and overlaps and duplications with existing activities avoided.

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

(a) Relevance to the priorities of the call (20 points):

Relevance of the action and its objectives to the priorities of the call for proposals, as described under Section 2 of this call notice, relevance of the issues addressed by the project, contribution of the proposal to the priorities, and complementarity with other Union activities, avoiding duplication with projects funded by other Union programmes.

(b) Quality of the proposed action (30 points):

Quality in terms of the proposed methodology for implementing the activities and its focus on achieving the desired goals; the organisation of work; the allocation of resources and the time schedule; the appropriateness of the envisaged activities. If a project will

involve direct contact with children, the quality of the child safeguarding/protection policy put in place by the applicants will be assessed under this criterion.

The quality of the project will also be determined by some additional factors: (i) the strategy for monitoring the project implementation (ii) the identification of real and possible risks that may be faced during this phase and listing the measures to mitigate these; (iii) the proposed evaluation of the results and by whom, including measures to assess the success of the activities and the indicators to be used; (iv) the identification of ethical issues and the proposed action to address them.

(c) European added value of the project (15 points):

The European added value of the project shall be assessed in the light of criteria such as its contribution to the consistent and coherent implementation of Union law and policies and to wide public awareness about the rights deriving from it, its potential to develop mutual trust among Member States and to improve cross-border cooperation, its transnational impact, its contribution to the elaboration and dissemination of best practices or its potential to create practical tools and solutions that address cross-border or Union-wide challenges.

Where national projects are eligible, projects which have a transnational impact will be more favourably assessed than projects whose scope is purely limited to one Member State.

(d) Expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact (25 points):

How appropriate are the expected results to achieve the objectives of the action? Is there a long-term impact of these results on the target groups and/or the general public? A clear, targeted and appropriate dissemination strategy, which will ensure that the results and/or lessons learnt will reach the target groups and/or the general public? Is sustainability of the activities after the EU funding ensured?

(e) Cost-effectiveness (10 points):

Financial feasibility of the proposed activities by means of a realistic and reasonable budget. Appropriateness of the amount requested in relation to the scale and type of the activities, to the expected results and to the size of the partnership. Appropriateness of management and coordination costs.

As a result of the evaluation carried out against the above award criteria the proposals will be ranked according to the points attained. The list of awarded projects will be established based on the amount of budget available.

Proposals must attain an overall score of 70 points, otherwise they will not be considered for the award of a grant even in case the available budget is not consumed fully. Proposals not attaining a minimum score of 14 points for the relevance criterion will not be further considered for the award of a grant.

Once the evaluation procedure is completed, the Commission will adopt a formal award decision indicating the selected and the rejected proposals, publish it on Directorate-General Justice and Consumers website. Please note that the award decision does not represent a legal or financial commitment on the part of the Commission. The award of

each grant is subject to the conclusion of a Grant Agreement in writing. Applicants whose applications are rejected will receive a letter from the Commission stating the reasons for the rejection.

After the award decision has been adopted, the Commission will prepare the Grant Agreements for the selected applications (including dialogue with the Applicant concerning any necessary technical and financial adjustments).

Experience shows that usually the number of the proposals scoring above the minimum threshold of 70 points exceeds the number of the projects that can be funded from the available budget.

Therefore, the Commission reserves the right to set up a reserve list in addition to the award list. Proposals placed on the reserve list may receive funding should additional funding become available after the adoption of the award decision. This typically happens if an awarded project is cancelled or withdrawn or if grants are reduced during the budget review of awarded projects. In this case the Commission will contact the applicant of the project ranked highest on the reserve list.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

5.1. Number of applications and grants per applicant

Applications for several projects

The applicant may submit more than one application under this call for proposals.

The applicant may be awarded more than one grant under this call for proposals.

An organisation may participate as applicant, partner or as associate partner in several applications.

Several applications for the same project

Only one application will be accepted and evaluated for any given project. If the applicant submits more than one version of the application package or of documents contained therein under the same application number, only the latest version submitted will be taken into consideration for the evaluation. In case there are several applications for the same project with different application numbers, the applicant will be asked to clarify which application shall be evaluated.

An action may receive only one grant from the EU budget.

5.2. Start date and duration

Projects should be scheduled to start after the Grant Agreement is signed. (See section 8 - Timetable). The actual start date of the project will be the date agreed by the Commission during the preparation of the Grant Agreement.

Starting the project before the signature of the Grant Agreement will be accepted only under exceptional circumstances, where the applicant can demonstrate the need to start the action before the Grant Agreement is signed.

A project that has already started before the date the grant application was submitted is not eligible for funding (see section 4.2.2.c).

The initial duration of the projects should not exceed 24 months.

5.3. Financial provisions

The funding under this call is based on the co-financing principle: the grant cannot constitute more than 80% of overall eligible project costs. The beneficiaries should ensure that the outstanding balance is covered from sources other than the EU budget (own resources of beneficiaries, contributions by donors, income generated by the project). The project budget must have revenue and expenditure in balance.

Contributions in kind

Contributions in kind mean the provision of goods or services to a beneficiary(ies) free of charge by a third party. As contributions in kind do not involve any expenditure for a beneficiary(ies) they are not eligible costs.

Contributions in kind may not be treated as co-financing. However, if the description of the action as proposed includes contributions in kind, the contributions have to be made.

Non-profit rule

EU grants may not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit within the framework of the action. Profit shall be defined as a surplus of the receipts over the eligible costs incurred by the beneficiary, when the request is made for payment of the balance. In this respect, where a profit is made, the Commission shall be entitled to recover the percentage of the profit corresponding to the Union contribution to the eligible costs actually incurred by the beneficiary to carry out the action. More details are provided in the Guide for Action Grants.

Sub-contracting and implementing contracts

If the beneficiaries have to conclude contracts with third parties in order to carry out a limited part of the activities, it shall justify this working method in the *Annex I - Project Description and Implementation Form* and duly respect the rules set out in the Guide for Action Grants, in the section on award of contracts. As a general rule, subcontracting shall be limited to 30% of the total eligible costs. If this threshold is exceeded in the budget estimate, the applicant shall provide justification, which shall help the Commission to assess whether the exception can be accepted.

Financial support to third parties

Projects through which the beneficiaries use the budget of the project to award grants to other organisations under their own procedures and authority (financial support to third parties) cannot be financed under this call for proposals.

Estimated budget

Before signature of a grant agreement, the estimated budget submitted by the applicant is subject to a review. If problems such as arithmetical errors, inaccuracies, unrealistic costs and ineligible costs are identified, the Commission may request clarifications and/or may

impose modifications or reductions to address such mistakes or inaccuracies. It is not possible to increase the grant as a result of these corrections.

Applicants must provide a realistic and cost-effective budget. The estimated budget must be prepared in accordance with the provisions of section V of the Guide for Action Grants.

If the amount of the grant is lower than the amount requested, it is the responsibility of the beneficiaries to find the additional funds required to cover its co-financing share or to reduce the total cost of the project.

Grant Agreement

Grants awarded shall be governed by a written agreement. The agreement is a standard agreement; its terms and conditions may not be altered and are not subject to negotiation.

In case of projects involving partners, the coordinator will be requested to sign a multi-beneficiary grant agreement, while in case of a project involving only one organisation, the mono-beneficiary grant agreement will be used. More information is available in the Guide for Action Grants.

The Grant agreement templates are published on the webpage of the call for proposals.

VAT

Please note that new rules concerning eligibility of VAT entered into force on 1 January 2013. The change concerns more particularly public entities. Applicants should refer to the Guide for Action Grants for more detailed information.

6. KICK-OFF MEETING AND DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

6.1. Kick-off meeting

The Commission intends to organise a one-day "kick-off" meeting in Brussels for successful applicants. The meeting will focus on project management, administrative and financial aspects as well as reporting obligations.

If necessary, applicants should include return travel to Brussels and subsistence costs for up to two representatives in their estimated project budget. A single overnight stay should be sufficient.

The meeting should be attended preferably by the project coordinator and the financial coordinator.

6.2. Dissemination activities

During the project implementation, it could be envisaged that the beneficiaries are invited by the Commission to present their projects or their project results in seminars or conferences or to participate in study visits with other beneficiaries.

The applicants are therefore invited to include in their estimated project budget costs for return travel and subsistence for one overnight stay. Applicants should estimate that one representative of their organisation attends maximum two events of this kind.

7. PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

7.1. Procedure for submission of applications

This call is managed via **PRIAMOS**, an on-line system for the submission of applications.

Applicants first need to register and obtain a login and password to access the system. This should be done as soon as a decision is taken to participate in this call.

Applications must be submitted, in their entirety, through PRIAMOS. No applications (partial or entire) submitted on paper, fax or e-mail will be considered.

Information and guidance on how to register and submit an application via PRIAMOS can be found on the following website:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants/priamos/index_en.htm

The grant application and its annexes may not be modified after the deadline for submission. The functions allowing the downloading of blank Grant Application Forms and the uploading of completed Application packages will be disabled at the deadline. However, applicants will be able to access the application they submitted at any time after the deadline.

Please note that, although the PRIAMOS system is able to deal with a lot of applications at the same time, it is advisable not to wait until the last moment to register on the system and submit an application. Applicants are advised to verify that their registration details in PRIAMOS are up-to-date. Contact details are uploaded directly into the application form and, in case of a successful application, used when preparing the grant agreement.

No extension of the deadline will be granted. No application will be accepted if the upload of the application package fails due to reasons which are beyond the Commission's control.

7.2. Grant Application Form

The Applicant will be able to download the specific **Grant Application Form** mandatory for this call once it has registered in PRIAMOS.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Applicants should select the Grant Application Form that is relevant to the call for proposals under which they want to apply.

The reference in PRIAMOS for this call for proposals is:

JUST/2015/SPOB/AG/VICT

In the Grant Application Form, Applicants must select the priority their proposal addresses from the drop-down menu.

If an application form is void of data other than that downloaded automatically from the registration details held in PRIAMOS, it shall be considered that no application has been made.

By submitting the Grant Application Form, applicants electronically sign declarations on their honour certifying that they are not in one of the situations referred to in Articles 106(1) and 107 to 109 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the Union, that they fulfil the eligibility criteria and that they have the required the financial and operational capacity to carry out the proposed activities.

By signing the partner declaration, the partners make the same declaration.

7.3. List of required annexes

The mandatory templates for *Annex 1- Project Description and Implementation Form*, *Annex 2 – Budget* and *Annex 3 – Partner/Associate Partner Declaration* will be available in PRIAMOS as attachments to the *Grant Application Form*. No mandatory templates are set for the rest of the Annexes.

The Commission reserves the right not to take into account documents that were not requested. In particular, the Commission will not accept a project description that is not presented on the set template or partly presented in a different document.

All the annexes must be attached to the Grant Application Form. An application is considered complete only if all the necessary annexes have been provided. If no annex is provided, the application will be rejected right away.

ANNEXES	
Annex 1. Project Description and Implementation Form	<p>The applicant must use the <u>mandatory template</u> and complete it in accordance with the instructions given in the Guide for Action Grants.</p> <p>The template must be uploaded in the original Word format and should not be scanned before it is attached to the Grant Application Form.</p>
Annex 2. Budget Form	<p>The applicant must use the <u>mandatory template</u> and complete it in accordance with the instructions given in the Guide for Action Grants.</p> <p>The budget figures contained in the <i>Budget Form</i> must match those indicated in the <i>Grant Application Form</i>.</p> <p>The template must be uploaded in the original Excel format and should not be scanned before it is attached to the Grant Application Form.</p>
Annex 3. Partner/Associate Partner declaration (to be submitted	<p>Partners and Associate Partners must use the <u>mandatory template</u> and complete it in accordance with the instructions given in the Guide for Action Grants.</p> <p>All the sections of the template shall be completed and the form shall be signed and dated by the authorised signatory of the partner organisation.</p>

<p>when applicable)</p>	<p>The Application package should contain one declaration for each Partner indicated in other sections of the Application Package.</p> <p><u>The scanned</u> electronic copy of each of the duly completed, dated and signed declaration(s) must be attached to the Grant Application Form in one document. The filled but unsigned Word version will not be accepted.</p>
<p>Annex 4.</p> <p>Documents showing the legal and fiscal registration of the applicant</p>	<p>The following documents are required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of legal registration of the applicant organisation. • Articles of Association or Statutes of the applicant organisation. • Fiscal registration showing the VAT number of the applicant organisation. <p><u>No</u> mandatory template is imposed.</p> <p>These documents will be used to check the applicant’s legal status and that it is properly constituted under the national law of one of the eligible countries.</p> <p>Only official documents issued by the relevant national authorities (and not self-declarations) are accepted.</p> <p>There is no need to submit translation of documents drafted in an EU official language.</p>
<p>Annex 5.</p> <p>Profit and Loss accounts Balance Sheets</p> <p>(to be submitted by the applicant)</p> <p>+</p> <p>External audit report (if the share of the grant request is above EUR 750.000)</p> <p>(to be submitted, when applicable, by any organisation, applicant or partner)</p>	<p><u>No</u> mandatory template is imposed.</p> <p>The Applicant must submit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Profit and Loss account (mandatory) • the Balance Sheet (if available). <p>Profit and loss accounts and balance sheets must be provided for financial years 2014 and 2015, or of the latest 2 years available. These documents will be used to verify the applicant’s financial capacity.</p> <p>In case the applicant was established recently as a legal entity and thus has no closed financial year, please provide any document available that could help establish the financial capacity, and at least a business plan.</p> <p>If the share of the grant requested by an organisation¹⁸ (applicant or partner) exceeds EUR 750 000, this organisation must submit an audit report certifying its accounts for the last closed financial year, produced by an approved external auditor. This audit report has to be submitted even in case the organisation is not obliged to prepare such report under the applicable national legislation.</p>

¹⁸ See the calculation in the Grant Application Form, section 1.5, column *Value of EU Contribution Expected*.

<p>Annex 6.</p> <p>Annual Activity Report for the last available year</p>	<p><u>No mandatory template is imposed.</u></p> <p>The Annual Activity Report shall describe the activities the applicant carried out during 2015 (if not yet approved, a draft document could also be submitted). The report should be detailed enough to allow the verification of the organisation's aims and activities and its operational and professional capacity. If no such document exists at all, the document should be drafted for the purpose of the application and certified by the legal representative of the organisation.</p>
<p>Annex 7.</p> <p>Curriculum vitae</p>	<p>The Commission strongly suggests that CVs are presented in the EUROPASS CV format¹⁹; however, organisations are free to submit these CVs in any other format. <u>CVs should preferably be grouped in one file per beneficiary, rather than uploaded individually.</u></p> <p>The project team should be described and the key staff should be listed in the relevant section of Annex 1.</p> <p>In case no person is recruited for a key job at the stage of application please provide the description of the profile or job description.</p>
<p>Annex 8</p> <p>Description of child protection policy</p> <p>(to be submitted, when applicable, by any organisation, applicant or partner)</p>	<p>Any applicant and/or partner working directly with/having contact with children, must provide the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the written, published child protection policy (pdf and/or hyperlink to where it is published); • the written guidelines/behaviour protocols/codes of conduct for adults working with/in contact with children. <p>All applicants are encouraged to take a close look at the guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/rights-child/index_en.htm • http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/rights_child/standards_child_protection_kcsc_en.pdf <p>If no Annex 8 is submitted, the Commission will assume that the applicant and/or partners concerned don't have one in place.</p> <p>Child protection policies will be considered under the quality award criterion. It is unlikely that a project will receive funding should no child protection policy be submitted.</p> <p>What will NOT be accepted as an organisation's child protection policy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of national, European or international child protection laws or policies will not suffice. We expect to receive the organisation's internal codes/procedures and policies.

¹⁹ The EUROPASS CV template can be downloaded at: <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/europass/home/vernav/Europass+Documents/Europass+CV.csp>

Annexes 4, 5 and 6 are not requested at the stage of application if the Applicant is a **public body** (i.e. a body governed by public law, e.g. public authorities at local, regional or national level) or a university.

If the documents requested as Annex 4, 5 or 6 are available on the applicant's website, a link to the documents can be provided instead of the documents. The link(s) should be indicated on a separate sheet to be annexed to the Grant Application Form called "Annex [4/5/6]", as appropriate. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the links are correct and working. Please note that a general link to the applicant's website is not sufficient.

Additional information and documents may be requested from applicants and partners.

8. DEADLINE AND TIMETABLE

The **deadline for submitting proposals** via the PRIAMOS system is
8 April 2016, 12:00 (noon) Central European Time

The indicative timetable for the various stages of the procedure is:

	Stages	Timing
1	Publication of the call	January 2016
2	Deadline for submitting applications	8 April 2016, 12:00 (noon) CET
3	Information to all applicants on the results of the selection procedure	Indicative date: September 2016
4	Signature of grant agreements	Indicative date: From October 2016

9. CONTACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

The call's website:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/open-calls/index_en.htm

Information regarding the electronic submission in PRIAMOS:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants/priamos/index_en.htm

Questions may be sent by e-mail to the following functional email address.

EC-JUSTICE-CALLS@ec.europa.eu

To ensure an efficient handling of any enquiry please indicate clearly the reference of this call.

Questions will be answered as soon as possible. **Questions received later than 7 calendar days before the deadline for submitting applications will not be responded to.**

Applicants are advised to consult the call's website regularly. The Commission will publish at this website any additional information relevant to the call, such as responses to frequently asked questions (if appropriate) and the results of the selection procedure.

In accordance with the principle of equal treatment of applicants, the Commission cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an Applicant, a Partner or an action or on the outcome of the call before the official publication of the results.

The Commission may contact the Applicant, should a need for clarification or information arise during the evaluation of the proposal. Such contact will be initiated per e-mail via the contact person indicated under section 1.4 of the Grant Application Form, and may request an answer within a short deadline. **Please make sure that the e-mail address in your Grant Application Form is correct and regularly checked.**

10. DATA PROTECTION

The submission of an application under this call for proposals involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data requested are required to evaluate the application in accordance with the specifications of the call for proposals and will be processed solely for that purpose. Details concerning the processing of personal data are available on the privacy statement at:

http://ec.europa.eu/dataprotectionofficer/privacystatement_publicprocurement_en.pdf .

Personal data may be registered in the Early Warning System (EWS) only or both in the EWS and Central Exclusion Database (CED) by the Accounting Officer of the Commission, should the beneficiary be in one of the situations mentioned in:

- Commission Decision 2008/969 of 16.12.2008 on the Early Warning System, or Commission Regulation 2008/1302 of 17.12.2008 on the Central Exclusion Database
- For more information see the Privacy Statement on:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/protecting/protect_en.cfm

11. PUBLICITY BY THE COMMISSION

All information relating to grants awarded in the course of a financial year shall be published on an internet site of the European Union institutions no later than the 30 June of the year following the financial year in which the grants were awarded:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/fts/index_en.htm

The Commission will publish the following information:

- name of the Beneficiaries;
- address of the Beneficiaries;
- subject of the grant;
- maximum amount awarded.

Upon a reasoned and duly substantiated request by a beneficiary, the publication shall be waived if such disclosure risks threatening the rights and freedoms of individuals concerned as protected by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union or harm the commercial interests of the beneficiary.

12. PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

12.1. Dissemination strategy and communication tools

Adequate communication and active dissemination of results is essential in ensuring the EU added value of the project and its sustainability after the funding has ended. Information-giving and awareness raising are key activities to ensure that other interested parties benefit from the project and can create new opportunities to extend it or develop new partnerships.

The proposal should provide in Annex 1 a clear description of the dissemination and communication activities to be funded, including at least the following elements:

- **Communication needs and objectives:** What are the communication needs and objectives of the project?
- **Target groups and multipliers:** What are the target groups? Which stakeholders or other organisations could possibly be supporters and multipliers of the communication activities?
- **Key messages:** Which messages will the activities convey in order to meet the communication objectives? It is essential that the messages do not stigmatise any specific group (for example ethnic minorities). It is also encouraged not to reproduce or spread gender stereotypes.
- **Distribution channels/tools:** Which channels/tools will be used to convey the messages to the target groups and multipliers?

At final report stage, the beneficiary will be required to provide details about how and to whom the results, best practices and findings have been disseminated and how stakeholders and multipliers have been involved in the project.

12.2. Monitoring and evaluation of the activities

A monitoring strategy is to be established for a continued and informed steering of project implementation. The monitoring strategy aims to ensure that the project is implemented as planned, and that potential risks don't materialise or are appropriately addressed. It is therefore also important to identify potential risks and measures to mitigate them when planning the project.

Moreover, every project should provide for an evaluation; this should ideally be done by someone who is not directly involved in the implementation of the project. The application should indicate:

- How the project activities, the outputs and the results shall be evaluated, and by whom;
- The list of quantitative and qualitative indicators that will be used to measure the reach and coverage of the project activities and project results;
- What data will be collected, according to what method and at what point in time, including feedback from project participants (satisfaction surveys, evaluation forms, etc);
- How findings will be analysed and reported and how they will be used.