



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY

**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN  
THE EU TO SERVE AS INDEPENDENT MONITOR FOR AN INTEGRITY PACT  
IN A PROJECT CO-FUNDED BY STRUCTURAL OR COHESION FUND**

~~Deadline: 25 June 2015~~

**Deadline: 9 July 2015, 23:00h Brussels time**

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ANNEX 1. APPLICATION FORM

## 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 During the period 2014-2020, the EU will invest €325 billion in Europe's regions through the European Structural and Investment Funds, which aim to promote economic growth, job creation, competitiveness and reduce development disparities. It is crucial to make sure this money is spent properly in order to reap the full benefits of cohesion policy. It is against this background that the new programming period has witnessed a stronger focus on results and increased emphasis on zero tolerance to fraud.
- 1.2 The Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission (hereinafter DG REGIO) is committed to look for and test new ways of safeguarding EU funds from the risks of mismanagement, fraud and corruption and increasing transparency in how the funds are used. As one of the initiatives in this field, DG REGIO has launched a **pilot project "Integrity Pacts - Civil Control Mechanism for Safeguarding EU Funds"**. In this project, DG REGIO seeks to pilot Integrity Pacts in a number of projects co-financed by the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds in the Member States.
- 1.3 **An Integrity Pact** is a tool developed by Transparency International to help governments, businesses and civil society fighting corruption in public contracting. It is based on an agreement between a contracting authority and economic operators bidding for public contracts that they will abstain from corrupt practices and will conduct a transparent procurement process. To ensure accountability and legitimacy, an Integrity Pact includes a monitoring system led by a civil society organisation which monitors that all parties comply with their commitments.

An Integrity Pact has multiple objectives:

- ✓ To increase transparency, accountability and good governance in public contracting,
- ✓ To enhance trust in public authorities and contribute to their better reputation,
- ✓ To improve competition, promote cost efficiency and savings through better procurement.<sup>1</sup>

- 1.4 Integrity Pacts have already been applied in many countries and contexts around the world, however their use in the Structural and Cohesion Funds so far has been limited. The **objective** of the DG REGIO pilot project is to explore the applicability of Integrity Pacts and the advantages this tool can bring in the framework of Structural and Cohesion Funds. The experience from piloting Integrity Pacts will be shared and disseminated at the EU level.

## 2. OBJECTIVE OF THE CALL

- 2.1. This Call for Expression of Interest (hereinafter – the Call) is part of a two-stage process aiming at selecting civil society organisations in the EU to monitor Integrity Pacts in the framework of the Structural and Cohesion Funds.
- 2.2. Under this Call (the first stage of the process mentioned in paragraph 2.1.), DG REGIO seeks **expressions of interest from non-profit civil society organisations in the EU**

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<sup>1</sup> More information on Integrity Pacts and their implementation in practice can be accessed at: [https://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/publication/integrity\\_pacts\\_in\\_public\\_procurement\\_an\\_implementation\\_guide](https://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/publication/integrity_pacts_in_public_procurement_an_implementation_guide)

willing to act as Independent Monitors for Integrity Pacts in projects co-financed by the Structural and Cohesion Funds and ready to share lessons learned from monitoring.

- 2.3. The expected result of this Call is a **shortlist** of expressions of interest to monitor Integrity Pacts.
- 2.4. In parallel, DG REGIO is also launching a Call for Expression of Interest addressed to public authorities and requesting to propose projects co-financed by the Structural and Cohesion Funds which would benefit from an Integrity Pact. More detailed information about this is available on the InfoRegio website<sup>2</sup>.
- 2.5. Pilot Integrity Pacts can only be implemented in countries where both a public authority and a civil society organisation are shortlisted.
- 2.6. This Call will not result in the award of the funding. It will be followed by the second stage during which the shortlisted civil society organisation and shortlisted public authority in each country will be requested to submit a more detailed proposal about the project which would benefit from an Integrity Pact and the set-up of this Integrity Pact.
- 2.7. DG REGIO has allocated budget for financing the costs of Integrity Pact monitoring done by a civil society organisation in a project co-funded by the Structural or Cohesion Fund.

### **3. SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED RESULTS**

- 3.1. Applicants who will be shortlisted under this Call will be expected to undertake **preparatory activities** leading to the development of an Integrity Pact. This will predominantly involve engaging with managing authorities/intermediate bodies/contracting authorities and civil society actors to develop in greater detail the plans for the implementation of the Integrity Pact including finalizing the detailed proposal. The award of funding for monitoring will be based on the aforementioned proposals.
- 3.2. Applicants whose detailed Integrity Pact proposals will be awarded funding will **implement** the following activities (the list is not exhaustive): negotiating and signing an Integrity Pact with the managing /contracting authority, developing and implementing a monitoring plan to ensure the activities of the independent external monitor are fully executed throughout the project, publishing regular monitoring reports, following up on irregularities, carrying out publicity activities, tracking impact and the like. For a greater understanding of activities required please consult the Integrity Pact manual<sup>3</sup>.
- 3.3. During the implementation phase, civil society organisations participating in the piloting of Integrity Pacts will be required to **report regularly on implemented activities** to the appointed central entity managing the project "Integrity Pacts - Civil Control Mechanism for Safeguarding EU Funds".

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<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/index.cfm/en/policy/how/improving-investment/integrity-pacts/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/policy/how/improving-investment/integrity-pacts/)

<sup>3</sup>

[https://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/publication/integrity\\_pacts\\_in\\_public\\_procurement\\_an\\_implementation\\_guide](https://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/publication/integrity_pacts_in_public_procurement_an_implementation_guide)

3.4. During the implementation phase, civil society organisations participating in the piloting of Integrity Pacts will also be requested to closely **monitor and document outcomes** resulting from the Integrity Pact. This will feed into broader learning around the use of Integrity Pacts in the Structural and Cohesion Funds framework.

#### 4. WHO CAN APPLY UNDER THIS CALL? ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

4.1. Expressions of Interest can be submitted by any non-profit civil society actor in EU countries eligible to receive EU Structural and/or Cohesion Funds. This excludes politically affiliated organisations, businesses, media organisations and other for profit associations.

4.2. Joint submissions by several organisations are encouraged.

#### 5. CRITERIA FOR SHORTLISTING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

5.1. An applicant can only be shortlisted if a corresponding expression of interest is received from a managing authority/intermediate body/public beneficiary in their country. As indicated in paragraph 2.2, the Call for Expressions of Interest for Public Authorities has been launched simultaneously with this Call.

5.2. The eligible expressions of interest will be assessed against the following **criteria**:

CRITERIA FOR SHORTLISTING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST		WEIGHT	REFERENCE IN THE APPLICATION FORM
(1)	<p><b>Experience with monitoring of public procurement and/or Integrity Pact</b> Ideally the applicant(s) (alone or in coalition) should demonstrate experience and /or knowledge in civil control mechanisms for procurement. These can include experience with Integrity Pacts but could also encompass alternative forms of procurement monitoring.</p>	20%	Section 2
(2)	<p><b>Quality of the proposed approach to monitoring</b> The applicant(s) should demonstrate a clear understanding of what the function of Independent Monitor of an Integrity Pact entails and outline the approach they would take to fulfilling this role. They should be able to demonstrate a general plan of action, showing how they would prioritise/plan/design activities and milestones. This could be done on the basis of a project co-funded by the Structural or Cohesion Fund that the applicant(s) would suggest for piloting of an Integrity Pact in their country.</p>	20%	Section 4
(3)	<p><b>Capacity to implement the action</b> The applicant(s) should provide proof of project management capacity including grant</p>	30%	Section 5

CRITERIA FOR SHORTLISTING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST	WEIGHT	REFERENCE IN THE APPLICATION FORM
administration. In cases where a specific project is envisaged for piloting an Integrity Pact, they should also show a clear understanding of the expertise and skills required for the successful implementation of the Integrity Pact and an awareness of skills available within their organisation(s) or awareness of where skills can be accessed externally as appropriate.		
<b>(4) Knowledge of the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds</b> Ideally the applicant(s) (alone or in coalition) will have experience with projects co-funded by the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds.	10%	Section 3
<b>(5) Ability to get relevant stakeholders on board and work with them</b> The applicant(s) should provide a track record of its ability to work with different stakeholders that would be involved in an Integrity Pact (such as managing authorities, business sector, technical experts, relevant civil society organisations, etc.). Applicants should provide clear indications on how they expect to approach, convince and, ultimately, closely collaborate with all potential stakeholders. Applicants should demonstrate a willingness to work in coalition if needed as well as proof of diplomatic and conflict resolution skills.	10%	Section 6
<b>(6) Experience with media and public outreach</b> The applicant(s) will be expected to show experience with outreach to the public and /or well developed ideas for how they can be reached out to throughout the implementation of the Integrity Pact.	10%	Section 7

5.4. In order to learn from the experience, DG REGIO seeks to pilot Integrity Pacts in different Member States/regions, sectors and types of projects. The shortlist is expected to be a diverse set of pilot projects.

## 6. FUNDING

6.1. Funding to be allocated to each selected Integrity Pact pilot will be based on the detailed proposals to be submitted for the shortlisted applications in the second stage as indicated in the paragraph 2.6 of this Call.

6.2. Funding can be used to finance eligible monitoring expenses for up to 100%, for a period of up to 3 years.

## 7. ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- 7.1. Expressions of Interest will be assessed against the eligibility criteria specified in the paragraph 4.1 and shortlisted based on the criteria listed in the paragraph 5.2 of this Call.
- 7.2. The assessment will be carried out by a selection panel consisting of representatives of the European Commission and the Transparency International Secretariat. The final decision on a shortlist will be taken by the European Commission.
- 7.3. Each applicant will be informed about the decision taken.
- 7.4. At this stage of the Call, the shortlisting of an expression of interest does not constitute a binding commitment – either implicit or explicit – on the part of the European Commission to finance an Integrity Pact.
- 7.5. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to develop more detailed proposals.

## 8. PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

- 8.1. Civil society organisations willing to submit the expression of interest to act as Independent Monitor of an Integrity Pact are requested to complete the application form provided in the Annex 1 of this Call. The form shall be signed by an authorised representative of their organisation. Approval by email will be accepted.
- 8.2. The application form is to be filled-in in English.
- 8.3. The expression of interest should be submitted electronically to the following email address: [REGIO-INTEGRITY-PACTS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:REGIO-INTEGRITY-PACTS@ec.europa.eu)

## 9. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

- 9.1. The deadline for submitting an expression of interest is **9 July 2015, 23:00h Brussels time**.
- 9.2. Expressions of interest submitted after the date indicated in paragraph 9.1 of this Call will not be considered.

## 10. CONTACT

- 10.1. In case of any questions, please contact by email at [REGIO-INTEGRITY-PACTS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:REGIO-INTEGRITY-PACTS@ec.europa.eu)
- 10.2. All information related to this Call will be published online at [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/index.cfm/en/policy/how/improving-investment/integrity-pacts/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/policy/how/improving-investment/integrity-pacts/) .

## Annex 1.

### CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN THE EU TO SERVE AS INDEPENDENT MONITOR FOR AN INTEGRITY PACT IN A PROJECT CO-FUNDED BY STRUCTURAL OR COHESION FUND

#### Application Form

Please complete this form electronically and send it to the to the email address [REGIO-INTEGRITY-PACTS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:REGIO-INTEGRITY-PACTS@ec.europa.eu)

The proposal should not exceed 8 pages.

#### 1. Applicant

Name of organisation(s)					
Country					
Website of the organisation					
Date of creation					
Mission					
Is organisation non-profit?	<table border="1"><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>No</td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes				
<input type="checkbox"/>	No				
Number of staff					
Annual budget (2012, 2013, 2014)					
Governance structure					
Person(s) <sup>4</sup> responsible for implementation					
Phone(s)					
Email(s)					

#### 2. Describe your experience with monitoring public procurement and/or with Integrity Pacts. Please focus on any successes you have had. (max one page)

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#### 3. Describe your experience with Structural or Cohesion Fund projects. (max half a page)

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<sup>4</sup> Where the application is being made by a coalition, one lead person should be identified.

**4. Please provide a broad outline here of how you would plan to go about the work of an Independent Monitor for an Integrity Pact – what are the key activities that would be undertaken. If you have a concrete project in mind for piloting an Integrity Pact, please elaborate on this basis. If not, please provide your general understanding of what activities you would undertake as an Independent Monitor of an Integrity Pact. Please also include an overview of the human resources that would be needed to put this plan into action. (max 2 pages)**

**5. Please provide details on your capacity<sup>5</sup> to implement activities as Independent Monitor for an Integrity Pact. This should include capacity available within the applicant(s) as well as identifying capacity gaps and where additional capacity can be sourced externally. (max 1 page)**

**6. Please provide details on how you plan to approach and engage relevant Integrity Pact stakeholders (such as such as managing authorities, business sector, technical experts, relevant civil society organisations, etc.) in this project. What role can they play? What is your current relationship with these actors? Are there any challenges and how do you plan to overcome them<sup>6</sup>? (max 1 page)**

**7. Please provide details on how you plan to reach out to the media and the public under this project. What is your current experience in such outreach? What challenges do you anticipate and how would you overcome these? (max 1 page)**

**8. Budget summary (in EUR)**

Please provide an outline of the main budget headings you anticipate are required for the implementation of this piece of work.

*Note:* this is intended to give a preliminary understanding of the resource requirements. A more detailed budget will have to be developed at a later stage if the application is shortlisted.

**9. Please use this space to provide any other comments.**

<sup>5</sup> See capacity criteria described above.

<sup>6</sup> If you plan to submit as part of a coalition, please also set your planned coalition arrangements here.

**10. Signature of organisation/coalition representatives:**

Signature

Name

Position

Date