



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

Employment and Social Legislation, Social Dialogue

Social dialogue, Industrial Relations

BUDGET HEADING 04.03.01.08

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Improving expertise in the field of industrial relations

2014

VP/2014/004

In view of the large number of enquiries, please do not telephone.

Questions should be sent by e-mail only to:

empl-vp-industrial-relations@ec.europa.eu

To ensure a more rapid response it is helpful if applicants send their queries in English, French or German.

The English version of the call is the original.

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BUDGET HEADING 04 03 01 08
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE

CALL FOR PROPOSALS VP/2014/004 – IMPROVING EXPERTISE IN THE FIELD OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

1 OBJECTIVES OF THIS CALL FOR PROPOSALS

In line with the remarks in the budget of the European Union, budget heading 04 03 01 08 is intended to cover **actions to support industrial relations measures, in particular those designed to develop expertise and the exchange of EU-relevant information, as well as actions to improve knowledge on industrial relations institutions and practices across the EU and dissemination of results.**

"Industrial relations" concern the collective – rather than individual – aspects of the employment relationship. As such, they refer to the set of rules governing employment and relations at the workplace, together with the ways in which the rules are made, changed, interpreted and implemented by trade unions, employers and the state.

Against this background, the overarching objective of this call is to improve expertise and knowledge on industrial relations, in particular through activities of analysis and research, at EU level as well as in comparative terms (identifying convergences and differences in the industrial relations systems in place in the EU Member States and in Candidate Countries), thereby contributing to developing and reinforcing industrial relations structures in Europe.

Projects building on key findings of the previous **Industrial Relations in Europe reports¹** and/or providing potential contributions to future editions of the report are a **high priority**.

Objectives of this call include measures and initiatives linked to the **adaptation of industrial relations systems** to changes in employment and work and related challenges, such as: the employment and social dimensions of EU priorities in the context of the recovery from the crisis (taking into account increasing inequalities within and between Member States), the modernisation of the labour market, quality of work, anticipation, preparation and management of change and restructuring, the greening of the economy, flexicurity, skills, mobility and migration, youth employment, health and safety at work, reconciliation of work and family life, gender equality, action in the field of anti-discrimination, active ageing, healthier and longer working lives, active inclusion and decent work.

As such, the financed measures should contribute to addressing the overarching EU employment and social policy challenges as laid down in particular in:

- the *Europe 2020 Strategy Europe 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth* (COM(2010)2020) and the European Council Conclusions of 25-26

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=575&langId=en>

March 2010 and 17 June 2010, as well as the most relevant Flagship Initiatives: *Youth on the move* (COM(2010)477); *An agenda for new skills and jobs* (COM(2010)682); *European platform against poverty and social exclusion* (COM(2010)758);

- the Commission Communications *Towards a job-rich recovery* (COM(2012)173), *Moving Youth into Employment* (COM(2012)727) and *Towards Social Investment for Growth and Cohesion – including implementing the European Social Fund 2014-2020* (COM(2013)83);
- the Commission Communication *Strengthening the social dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union* (COM(2013)690).

Strengthening **synergies** and exchanges between European social partners and academia and research centres is a horizontal objective.

The budget heading can be used to finance actions involving partners from the Candidate Countries².

The foreseen budgetary allocation to this call is **EUR 4 000 000**. The European Commission reserves the right not to distribute all funds available.

Applications will be examined and selected taking account of the remarks in the EU budget and the criteria laid down in this document.

Access for people with disabilities should be guaranteed for measures funded under this call for proposals.

2 TARGETED MEASURES

The following categories of action are targeted:

- initiatives contributing to the preparation and use (presentation, discussion and dissemination) of the European Commission's Industrial Relations in Europe reports;
- activities to further deepen the analysis on topics/key findings that were examined in the previous editions of the Industrial Relations in Europe report, including: industrial relations in the public sector; industrial relations in Central and Eastern European countries; social partner involvement in social security; the role of social dialogue in fostering economic performance and the transition towards a low carbon economy; industrial relations in the framework of Economic and Monetary Union; the role of social dialogue in promoting youth employment;
- research activities including preparatory studies, surveys and other forms of data collection, monitoring exercises and studies;
- initiatives to enhance the collection and use of information on national industrial relations systems and on developments at European level;

² Where reference is made to the Candidate Countries in this call for proposals, it concerns the Candidate Countries at the time of the deadline for the submission of applications of this call for proposals http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/countries/check-current-status/index_en.htm.

- measures to identify and exchange information in the area of industrial relations, including through the activities of networks between industrial relations parties and/or experts;
- initiatives to promote knowledge on effective industrial relations practices, at both national and European level, including successful forms of worker participation, particularly in regard to the anticipation, preparation and management of change;
- actions to disseminate such findings in publications, round tables, seminars, conferences, training measures and training tools.

Measures aimed at directly supporting EU social partners initiatives and processes, such as consultations, meetings, negotiations and other actions related to the work of Social Dialogue Committees at both sectoral and cross-industry level, are **not** covered by this call for proposals. These types of actions are funded under a separate call for proposals.

3 SUBMISSION AND EXAMINATION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS

3.1 Submission deadlines and implementation dates

Complete applications must be submitted to the European Commission by the deadline for submission indicated below.

When setting the start date of the action, applicants should take account of the indicative timetable of the evaluation procedure set out in section 4.3.

Applicants should note that **they may receive the grant agreement after the start date of the action** that they have set. Any expenditure incurred before signature of the grant agreement by both parties is at the applicant's risk.

Actions must commence no later than 31 December 2014. Applications not respecting this condition will not be considered.

<p>The deadline for the submission of applications is 13 June 2014.</p>

3.2 Co-financing and duration of actions

Under this call for proposals, the European Commission may decide to finance up to 90% of the total eligible cost of the action.

Applications which request a grant of more than 90% of the total eligible cost will not be considered.

The requested Union **funding** must **not be less than EUR 108.000**.

The Commission welcomes in particular projects that provide for a full project cycle, including preparatory, implementation and dissemination, follow-up and reporting activities. Therefore, the duration of actions can be **up to 24 months**.

Applicants are requested to pay particular attention to the establishment of a realistic project timetable in order to avoid requests for amendment of the grant agreement for the sole purpose of extending the duration of the action.

The Commission will organise a **networking day** in Brussels for beneficiaries under the 2014 call (date to be defined). Applicants must therefore ensure that the travel, daily subsistence allowances and accommodation costs for up to 2 persons – the Project Manager and possibly the Financial Manager – to attend this meeting are included in their proposed project budget. If the applicant fails to do this, the Commission will not be able to fund the beneficiary's participation in the networking day.

3.3. Information on the action for which the grant is requested

When drafting the proposal, applicants are invited to pay particular attention to the following elements:

- The proposal should provide a clear explanation of the rationale and problem definition/analysis underpinning the proposed action, as well as the specific contribution of the action to the objectives of the call for proposals and its expected impact.
- In case of recurrent applications by the same applicant on similar or related topics, the added value of the new proposal as compared to ongoing and previous actions³ should be clearly explained.
- The choice of partners involved and countries covered should be duly explained and justified as regards their relevance towards the specific objectives of the action.
- Duplication between the SWIM electronic application form (see below) and the "detailed work programme" should be avoided (see also point 8 in the table in Annex II).
- Cost estimates should be reasonable, justified and comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency (see also point 9 in the table in Annex II). It should be noted that the cost-effectiveness of actions will be evaluated on the basis of the proposed budget. The Commission reserves the right to make corrections and/or cut non-eligible expenditure from the proposed budget, but it will not make adjustments in order to improve cost-effectiveness of proposals (see in this context also the evaluation method described in paragraph 3.7).

³ Including projects funded under other budget headings.

3.4 Exclusion criterion

Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 106(1) and 107 to 109⁴ of the Financial Regulation⁵.

3.5 Eligibility criteria

*Eligible applicants*⁶

To be eligible, *applicants* must:

- Be properly constituted and registered legal persons. In application of Article 131 of the Financial Regulation, social partner organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met;
- Fall within one of the following categories:

1	Social partners	(i) European social partner organisations currently consulted in accordance with Article 154 TFEU ⁷ (ii) European-level social partner organisations not covered in (i) above, for example those involved in the preparation and launch of European social dialogue at sectoral level (iii) National or regional social partner organisations, as long as the project is part of a European approach
2	Organisations linked to industrial relations	Non-profit-making organisations, research centres/institutes, universities Non-profit-making networks ⁸ of companies or of workers' organisations
3	Public authorities	Public authorities, including related associations and government services or agencies

⁴ The situations referred to include bankruptcy, compulsory winding-up, being under court administration, in an arrangement with creditors or any other similar proceedings; convictions of professional misconduct; non-fulfilment of social security or tax payment obligations; convictions of fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity; declared in serious breach of contract in relation to activities funded by the EU budget; subject to conflict of interest; guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the required information.

⁵ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 966/2012 of 25 October 2012 (OJ L298, 26 October 2012); http://ec.europa.eu/budget/biblio/documents/regulations/regulations_en.cfm.

⁶ Please see Annex I to the call (Financial Guidelines for Applicants) for a definition of the terms co-applicants, affiliated entities and associate organisations.

⁷ An up-to-date list of these organisations can be found under "List of consulted organisations" on webpage <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=2154&langId=en>.

⁸ This means that the applicant organisation must be a network.

4	International organisations	International organisations (such as UN Agencies) active in the fields of social dialogue and/or industrial relations ⁹
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- The lead applicant must have its registered office in one of the EU Member States¹⁰;
- Co-applicants must have their registered office in one of the EU Member States or the Candidate Countries¹¹.

Eligibility of actions

To be eligible, *actions* must:

- Have the involvement of co-applicants, affiliated entities or associate organisations¹² from more than one Member State and/or Candidate Country in the case of projects which are not submitted by a European-level or international organisation;
- Not request a European Union grant of over 90% of the total eligible cost of the action;
- Be fully carried out in the Member States of the European Union or the Candidate Countries¹³;
- Comply with the rule on the start date of actions in section 3.1.

Eligible applications

To be eligible, *applications* must:

- Be submitted by the deadline indicated in section 3.1 (both electronically and on paper);
- Be submitted on-line before being printed, and sent in 2 copies as a paper application duly signed (one original dossier and one copy of all submitted documents). Please see section 4.2 for further details on the submission of the application;

⁹ Other than the ILO with which the Commission will carry out a project under a direct grant.

¹⁰ In derogation from this requirement, international organisations, such as UN agencies, active in the fields of social dialogue and/or industrial relations, whose registered office is outside the EU Member States, are also eligible.

¹¹ See footnote 10.

¹² Please see Annex I to the call (Financial Guidelines for Applicants) for a definition of the terms co-applicants, affiliated entities and associate organisations.

¹³ In derogation from this requirement, international organisations, such as UN agencies, active in the fields of social dialogue and/or industrial relations can carry out activities also at the place of their registered office.

It should be noted that only daily subsistence allowances, travel and other expenses related to participants and speakers travelling between EU Member States and/or Candidate Countries will be accepted as eligible costs.

This provision does not apply to staff of international organisations, such as UN agencies, who are invited by the beneficiary to participate in a project event as speaker/expert or where the international organisation is the beneficiary or a partner in the project.

- Be complete and include **all the documents indicated in the table in Annex II.**

Applicants should note that the Evaluation Committee will not examine applications lacking one or more of these documents.

Please note that for the following documents, the official templates, which can be accessed via the SWIM electronic application form, must be used: declaration on honour; letter of mandate; financial identification form; legal entity form; letter of commitment; form concerning contracts for implementing the action.

3.6 Selection criteria

The applicant (lead and co-applicants) must have the financial and operational capacity to complete the activity for which funding is requested. Only organisations who demonstrate the necessary financial and operational capacity may be awarded a grant.

- Financial capacity to carry out the action: the applicant must have access to solid and adequate funding to maintain its activities for the period of the action and to help finance it as necessary (the verification of financial capacity does not apply to public bodies or to international organisations, such as UN Agencies)¹⁴.
- Operational capacity to complete the proposed action: the applicant must have the operational resources (technical, management) and the professional skills and qualifications needed to successfully complete the proposed action, as well as the ability to implement it. It is therefore not permissible to subcontract the project management of the action. The applicant must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

The financial capacity should be proven by the annual balance sheets and declaration on honour mentioned in Annex II. The operational capacity should be proven by the declaration on honour and the curriculum vitae mentioned in Annex II, as well as the information provided in section D.1 and D.3 of the SWIM application form on the operational structure of the lead applicant and co-applicants and on previous and current actions undertaken by them.

If the lead applicant is considered not to have the required financial or operational capacity, the application as a whole will be rejected. If a co-applicant is considered not to have the required financial or operational capacity, this co-applicant will be removed from the consortium and the application will be evaluated on that basis¹⁵. In addition, the costs that are allocated to the non-eligible co-applicant will be removed from the budget. If the application is accepted, the work programme will have to be adapted as appropriate.

¹⁴ The financial capacity of the applicant (lead and co-applicants) is assessed based on the analysis of the supporting documents listed in positions 2, 3 and 14 in the table in Annex II and by calculating the ratio between the total assets in the applicant's balance sheet and the total budget of the project or the part of the project budget for which that organisation is responsible according to the budget in the application form (the ratio should be greater than 0.70). In addition, the Commission will take into account any other relevant information on financial capacity provided by the applicant.

¹⁵ This includes a re-evaluation of the eligibility of the modified consortium.

3.7 Award criteria

Proposals which fulfil the eligibility and selection criteria indicated above will be assessed according to the following award criteria:

- i. The extent to which the action meets the objectives and priorities of the call for proposals
- ii. The extent to which the action has a genuine transnational dimension
- iii. The quality of the consortium and broader partnership, including the degree of involvement and commitment at the application stage of the social partners/stakeholders in the action¹⁶
- iv. The extent to which the action contributes to the understanding of industrial relations¹⁷
- v. The added value, i.e. the lasting impact and/or multiplier effect¹⁸ of the action¹⁹
- vi. The cost-effectiveness of the action
- vii. The arrangements to publicise the action and disseminate the results, including the quality and/or innovativeness of dissemination plans
- viii. The overall quality, clarity and completeness of the proposal and budget explanation

When assessing the proposals according to the abovementioned award criteria, the following method will be applied:

- Applications with a score below 50% for criteria i, ii or iv will not be considered for award.
- Applications with an overall score of less than 60% will not be considered for award.
- Taking account of the budget available for this call for proposals, the proposals with the highest overall evaluation scores will be selected for award.

¹⁶ Please note that the Commission does not consider it appropriate to include independent consultants, conference organisers, etc., as project partners. Please read chapter 4.2.2.3 Costs of services of Annex I carefully.

¹⁷ At EU level as well as in comparative terms.

¹⁸ The multiplier effect refers to how the project and its results will promote change in other fields, such as geographical, sectoral and thematic.

¹⁹ The Commission also reserves the right when assessing proposals to take into account the effectiveness and added value of previous or ongoing projects undertaken by the applicant with European Union funding.

4 PRACTICAL PROCEDURES

4.1 Where can the application form be found?

The compulsory on-line grant application form (SWIM) as well as the other requested forms can be found at the following Internet address:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=630&callId=404&furtherCalls=yes>

4.2 Where does the application need to be sent?

Please send your covering letter of application, together with 2 copies of all the other documents listed in the table in Annex II by the submission deadlines indicated above, to the following address:

**Call for proposals VP/2014/004
Budget heading 04.03.01.08
European Commission – DG EMPL/B.1
J-54 01/004
B – 1049 Brussels
Belgium**

Please send your application **by registered mail or express courier service only** and keep proof of the date of sending (the date of the post office stamp or express courier receipt will be considered as proof of the date of sending).

Hand-delivered applications must be received by the European Commission at the latest on the last day for submission. The **only address for hand delivery** of documents to the European Commission is: Avenue du Bourget n° 1, B-1140 Evere, Belgium²⁰ (although in any case, the package must be labelled with the DG EMPL address above). Proof of delivery is a signed receipt from the Commission's Archives Service stamped with the date of the last day for submission or earlier.

Please note that the SWIM electronic application form is available until midnight on the day of the submission deadline. However, as candidates must first submit the form electronically, and then print, sign and send it by post or hand delivery by the submission deadline, it is the **applicant's responsibility to ensure that the appropriate postal or courier services are locally available on the day of the deadline.**

Regarding the presentation of the application file, applicants are requested to:

- Follow the order of documents as listed in the table in Annex II;
- Print the documents double-sided, where possible;
- Only use 2-hole folders. **Please do not bind or glue the dossiers** (stapling is acceptable).

²⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/contact/mailling_en.htm

If an applicant submits more than one proposal, each one must be submitted separately.

ENQUIRIES MUST BE MADE BY E-MAIL ONLY TO:

empl-vp-industrial-relations@ec.europa.eu

- PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE -

4.3 What next? Accepted and rejected applications

Applications will be examined by an Evaluation Committee. The entire evaluation procedure is expected to take around 4 months.

	Stages	Date or indicative period
a)	Publication of the call	April 2014
b)	Deadline for submitting applications	13 June 2014
c)	Evaluation period	Until end September 2014
d)	Information to applicants (grant agreement for signature or rejection letter)	From mid-October 2014
e)	Starting date of the action (as stipulated in the grant agreement)	No later than 31 December 2014

The European Commission will notify applicants once the evaluation procedure is completed. **Requests for information concerning the progress of dossiers sent before the end of the evaluation procedure will not be answered.**

The Commission may contact applicants during the procedure to request additional information. This is generally done by e-mail. It is entirely the responsibility of applicants to ensure that all contact information provided is accurate and functioning. In case of any change of contact details, please send an e-mail with the application VP reference and the new contact details to empl-vp-industrial-relations@ec.europa.eu.

Rejected applications

Unsuccessful applicants will receive a letter stating the reasons for refusal.

Selected applications

Successful applicants will receive two original copies of the grant agreement for acceptance and signature. Both these copies must be sent back to the Commission, which will then return one to the applicant once it has been signed by both parties.

The work programme and the budget annexed to the grant agreement sent for signature to the successful applicant may differ from the proposal as submitted by the applicant.

Therefore the applicant should carefully read the whole agreement, and the work programme and budget sections in particular, before signing and returning the copies to the Commission.

Participation of the Commission in project events

Following the award of a grant, if the successful applicant would like the Commission to participate in any project events, the applicant must take immediate contact (in any case, at least 2 months before the event) with the Commission official responsible for following the action (named in the letter accompanying the grant agreement). The successful applicant should therefore not finalise the programming of such events without the Commission's prior approval and confirmation of its participation.

The Commission's acceptance of the grant application does not prejudge its decision on whether to attend an event included in the work programme. Such a decision is always subject to a separate examination of the event programme and prior agreement on the dates and practicalities. In this context it should be noted that the probability of Commission officials participating in project events will be higher if the latter take place in Brussels.

Publicity

In order to achieve a wider dissemination of project results, the elements concerning, inter alia, the project description, results and methodology, provided by the beneficiary in the "executive summary" part of the final report, may be published on the European Commission's website.

ANNEX I

FINANCIAL GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

Annex I is available on the call website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=630&callId=404&furtherCalls=yes>

ANNEX II

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The below table includes all documents that must be provided for the application to be eligible. It also indicates where originals are required and where copies are accepted.

We recommend that applicants use the table as a **checklist** in order to verify compliance with all requirements.

0	Complete application file <input type="checkbox"/> 2 copies of the application file are provided, the first one including originals where required (see below) <input type="checkbox"/> Documents are printed double-sided, where possible <input type="checkbox"/> Only 2-hole folders are used; the file is not bound or glued (stapling is acceptable)		<input type="checkbox"/>
1	Official covering letter of the application <input type="checkbox"/> Quoting the reference of the call for proposals <input type="checkbox"/> With the original signature of the lead applicant's legal representative	Original required	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Print-out of the duly completed and submitted on-line application form <input type="checkbox"/> dated and with the original signature of the lead applicant's legal representative NOTE: The on-line form <u>must be electronically submitted before printing</u> . After the electronic submission no further changes to the application are possible.	Original required	<input type="checkbox"/>

3	<p>A declaration on honour from the lead applicant and each co-applicant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Each indicating the total amount of the requested grant (as indicated in the SWIM application form) <input type="checkbox"/> Using the required template <input type="checkbox"/> Written on the official letterhead paper of the applicant organisations and have the original signature of the legal representative, certifying that the applicant organisation is not in one of the situations listed in Articles 106(1) and 107 to 109 of the Financial Regulation and that it has the financial and operational capacity to complete the activity for which funding is requested 	Originals required	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	<p>A letter of mandate from each <u>co</u>-applicant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> This must follow the template provided, be written on the official letterhead paper of the organisation and have the signature of the legal representative <input type="checkbox"/> It must also be submitted electronically in annex to the on-line application form 	Originals required	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	<p>For each affiliated entity, a document providing proof of the legal and/or capital link with the lead applicant or a co-applicant</p>	Copies accepted	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	<p>"Financial identification" form of the <u>lead</u> applicant organisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Duly completed with the original signature of the account holder <input type="checkbox"/> With the original signature and stamp of the bank <p>The financial identification form can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/ftiers_en.htm</p>	Original required	<input type="checkbox"/>

7	<p>"Legal entity" form of the lead applicant and each co-applicant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Duly completed and signed by the legal representative</p> <p>The legal entity form can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/legal_entities_en.htm</p> <p>Applicants must also provide:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a copy of the certificate of official registration or other official document attesting to the establishment of the entity (where this exists)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a copy of the articles of association/founding act/statutes or equivalent, proving the eligibility of the organisation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a copy of a document confirming the applicant's tax or VAT number, where applicable</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> exclusively in the case of social partner organisations without legal personality, a signed letter of the legal representative certifying his/her capacity to undertake legal obligations on behalf of the organisation (original required!)</p> <p>Organisations of Candidate Countries are requested to provide a translation in English, French or German of the required documents.</p>	<p>Copies accepted, except where indicated otherwise (last tick box)</p> <p>It is recommended not to include a paper copy of <u>statutes</u> in the application file, but to attach only an electronic copy in the SWIM application form</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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8	<p>A detailed work programme for the project</p> <p>This is a separate free-format document in addition to the on-line application form and it must also be submitted electronically in annex to the on-line application form. The paper version must be identical to the electronic version of the detailed work programme.</p> <p>The detailed work programme <i>should not repeat information that is already provided in the SWIM application form²¹</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It should provide a detailed and structured overview of the different project activities, the foreseen timing and the role and responsibility of each partner organisation (<i>not</i> individual staff members) in the implementation of these activities, as well as, to the extent possible, draft agendas of the main project events. • Where appropriate, risk factors as regards implementation and/or impact of the activities should be identified and mitigating measures defined. • It offers an opportunity to develop further the rationale and problem analysis underpinning the action. <p>All other information on the action should in principle be given in the SWIM application form. The detailed work programme is therefore expected not to be much longer than 5 pages, with an absolute maximum of 10 pages.</p> <p>The detailed work programme should be submitted in English, French or German.</p>	To be submitted both in paper and electronically (attachment in SWIM)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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²¹ The corresponding section in the SWIM form (E.6 Workplan) can therefore be kept rather succinct.

9	<p>A budget explanation for the project</p> <p>This is a separate free-format document in addition to the budget section of the on-line application form and it must also be submitted electronically in annex to the on-line application form. The paper version must be identical to the electronic version of the budget explanation.</p> <p>The budget explanation must provide additional information to explain and justify items of the proposed budget. It should in particular explain: how the number of working days of staff involved in the implementation of the action has been fixed; how average travel costs were calculated; unless this is self-explanatory, how costs of services and administration costs were defined.</p> <p>The Commission may request applicants to submit additional justifications of proposed eligible costs during the evaluation procedure.</p> <p>The budget explanation should be submitted in English, French or German.</p>	To be submitted both in paper and electronically (attachment in SWIM)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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10	<p>A list of the associated organisations and third parties involved in the action²²</p> <p>This is a separate free-format document in addition to the on-line application form and it must also be submitted electronically in annex to the on-line application form.</p> <p>For each of these organisations, the following information must be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the organisation • Type of involvement (i.e. as associate organisation or third party) • Type of organisation (see the options for applicants in the SWIM form) • Address • Postal code and city • Country <p>The requested information should be submitted in English, French or German.</p>	To be submitted both in paper and electronically (attachment in SWIM)	
11	<p>Letters of commitment</p> <p>A signed letter of commitment from each co-applicant²³ and affiliated entity named in the application form, and from any associate organisation or third party playing a major role in or making a financial contribution to the action, must be provided, explaining the nature of the partner's involvement and specifying the amounts of any funding provided.</p> <p>The letters of commitment should be submitted in English, French or German.</p>	Copies accepted	<input type="checkbox"/>

²² The co-applicants and affiliated entities are to be encoded separately in the SWIM form. Please see Annex I to the call (Financial Guidelines for Applicants) for a definition of the terms co-applicants, affiliated entities, associate organisations and third parties.

²³ Not required for the lead applicant.

12	<p>A curriculum vitae of the person responsible for managing the action (named in section A.3 of the application form) indicating clearly the current employer(s) with whom there exists either a permanent or temporary contract of employment. The CV should be submitted in English, French or German.</p>		<input type="checkbox"/>
13	<p>In the case of subcontracting for external expertise, the completed form "Contracts for implementing the action"²⁴</p> <p>Applicants wishing to recruit the services of external experts must provide the detailed information regarding the tasks involved, the reasons for subcontracting these tasks and the selection procedure that will be followed to award the contract²⁵. The form should be submitted in English, French or German.</p> <p>Applicants should note that subcontracting external expertise is only admissible if the staff of the applicant organisations and affiliated entities does not have the skills required. It is not permissible to subcontract the project management of the action.</p>		<input type="checkbox"/>

²⁴ In this context, interpretation and translation tasks are not considered as external expertise. The general rules and principles regarding the conclusion of external contracts included in Annex I do nevertheless fully apply (e.g. the obligation for the beneficiary to "seek competitive tenders from potential contractors and award the contract in writing to the bid offering the best value for money").

²⁵ Where the value of the procurement contract exceeds EUR 60 000, the beneficiary, in addition, must provide a copy of the draft tender specifications. To assist applicants, a model for tender specifications is included in Annex III to this call. Important additional information concerning subcontracting can be found in Annex I. The draft tender specifications should be submitted in English, French or German.

In addition, the applicants must be able to prove, if requested, that they have sought bids – by registered letter – from at least five different tenderers, including proof that they have posted the call for tender or invitation to tender at least on their website and provide a detailed description of the selection procedure.

This requirement does not apply to public authorities which are already governed by a system of public procurement rules; however, where applicable, this should be indicated.

14	<p>The most recent balance sheet of the lead applicant and all co-applicant organisations (not necessary for public bodies and international organisations)</p> <p>The balance sheets, by definition, must include assets and liabilities. The applicants should specify which currency is being used in the balance sheet. The Commission reserves the right to request balance sheets from previous years, if necessary.</p> <p>Organisations that are not required by law to establish an official balance sheet must nevertheless provide information on their assets and liabilities.</p>		<input type="checkbox"/>
15	<p>For grant requests over EUR 750 000: an external audit report produced by an approved auditor, certifying the accounts of the applicant organisation for the last financial year available (not necessary for public bodies and international organisations). The external audit report should be submitted in English, French or German. In the case of applications by a consortium, this threshold applies to each of the co-applicants in line with their share of the action budget.</p>		<input type="checkbox"/>

ANNEX III

MODEL FOR TENDER SPECIFICATIONS FOR SUBCONTRACTING EXTERNAL EXPERTISE

Tender Specifications –

- 1. Background**
- 2. Purpose of the Contract**
- 3. Tasks to be performed by the Contractor**
 - 3.1. Description of tasks**
 - 3.2. Guidance and indications on tasks execution and methodology**
- 4. Expertise required**
- 5. Time schedule and reporting**
- 6. Payments and standard contract**
- 7. Price**
- 8. Selection criteria**
- 9. Award criteria**

The contract will be awarded to the tenderer whose offer represents the best value for money - taking into account the following criteria:

-
-
-

It should be noted that the contract will **not** be awarded to a tenderer who receives less than 70% on the Award Criteria.

- 10. Content and presentation of the bids**
 - 10.1. Content of the bids**
 - 10.2. Presentation of the bids**