VP/2009/005 FAQ

On-line publication: 11/06/2009 Deadline for submission: 01/09/2009

Total budget: €3.5 million

Please note that we can only answer questions related to the requirements of the call for proposals and the application process. We cannot prejudge the assessment process by offering any opinion on the merit of a particular application.

How many partners from how many different PROGRESS countries need to be involved in the project?

According to part 3.1. "Eligibility of the proposal" point 2, at least one partner from one other PROGRESS-participating country needs to be involved.

In relation to this, please note that an erratum was published on 29 June 2009 concerning only the French Version of the call.

The following correction has been made to the French Version of the call:

"Point 3.1: Exclusion and eligibility criteria, Eligibility of the proposal

*La proposition de demande d'aide financière devra répondre aux critères d'éligibilité suivants:

(...)

2. associer des organisations partenaires provenant d'au moins un autre pays participant au programme PROGRESS;

Replaces the following sentence in the French version of the call:

*La proposition de demande d'aide financière devra répondre aux critères d'éligibilité suivants:

(...)

2. associer des organisations partenaires provenant d'au moins quatre pays participant au programme PROGRESS;"

Where I can find...

...the policy context of the call VP/2009/005?

The policy context is defined under point 1 of the text of the call for proposals. Other information is available on the PROGRESS' website: http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=327.

...the general framework of PROGRESS?

Please visit DG EMPL thematic site: http://ec.europa.eu/social/home.jsp?langId=en.

...the "Original version of the co-funding commitment signed by the legal representatives of the organisations concerned and specifying the amount of each cash contribution"?

Please see the text of the call - Part 6.3 and part E. in the SWIM Application form.

...the original cover letter?

There is no template. It is free text.

...the template for the mandate given by a public authority?

The template for the mandate is annexed to the text of the call on page 34. You may also find it in the SWIM web application (title 4, E Annexes, "attestation form").

...the template for the project proposal and the timetable?

The template for the project proposal and the timetable are available in the SWIM application form under heading E "Annexes" point E.2. "Project description and timetable".

...the PROGRESS committee contact points?

In each country, contact points may provide general information about financing by PROGRESS. The list may be found at http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=660&langId=en.

Could you please clarify which are the PROGRESS-participating countries for this call?

PROGRESS is accessible to all EU Member States, as well as the EFTA/EEA countries in accordance with the conditions established in the EEA Agreement (Iceland, Liechtenstein & Norway).

What is understood by "social experimentation"?

This call offers applicants the possibility to develop "social experimentation" *stricto sensu*, whilst not excluding other methods of evaluation. Social experimentation enables comparison of policy outcomes for two or more groups randomly assigned to different policy regimes. For a description of methodology of social experimentation the following two academic papers may be consulted (amongst others): http://www.evidencebasedpolicy.org/docs/Orr-Basic_Concepts_of_Social_Experiments.pdf (in English), and http://www.ensae.org/gene/main.php?base=41&base2=1&detail_article=669 (in French).

Is there a common template for the declaration of honour?

In the annexes of the on-line application you will find a link to a standard declaration of honour. You will be able to download it from the SWIM module.

Please could you tell me if a Legal Entity form and Financial Identification form is required for all project partners and the project coordinators when submitting the proposal?

The Legal Entity and Financial Identification are required for the lead applicant only.

Which are the languages of submission of the application form and additional materials?

Applications may be submitted in any of the official languages of the European Union, but it would be helpful to apply in English, French or German in order to facilitate the organisation of the selection process.

Is a private organisation from EU Member States eligible for this call as lead applicant?

The programme is open to all public bodies at European, national or sub-national level. Non-public bodies which are <u>non-profit bodies</u> (such as NGOs) or organisations of general interest may also participate, provided they have received a mandate from a public authority (see annexed template on page 34 of the call and in the SWIM application module title 4 E). Commercial companies are not eligible.

Is there any budgetary limit?

There is no budgetary limit. However, please read with care points 4 and 5 of the call text and the Financial Guidelines.

I have a problem with SWIM: I cannot save the data on the Application form.

If you need technical assistance, please contact empl-swim-support@ec.europa.eu. Please also refer to the user manual.

We cannot find the partnership / co-financing form to be filled in by the project's partners in the call documents. Do we have to make our own?

The application should be completed by the main applicant. If the project's partners are contributing in cash, they have to provide a signed letter of committing to provide co-funding, specifying the amount of each contribution. You may download a template from the SWIM application tool.

Is it necessary for partners to provide a copy of the official articles of association/statutes or is this only obligatory for the applicant organisation?

The above document should be used to prove the eligibility of the applicant organisation only - not the partners'. Please note that if the applicant organisation is a public law body, this document is not necessary.

Is a university considered a "public authority" for the purpose of the call?

The eligibility of a university depends on its status according to its national law.

In the call (part I 3.1 – Eligibility of the applicant), two legal categories of eligible entities have been distinguished:

- a) Public authorities,
- b) Organizations that are non-profit bodies or organizations of general interest on the condition among others that they are mandated. This mandate should take the form of the template annexed to the text of the call (page 34) and in the SWIM web application (title 4, E Annexes, attestation form).

What is the role of the public authority that gives a mandate to a private non-profit body or organization of general interest?

The public authority mandating the applicant should state an interest in the social experimentation proposed. This interest may take the form of improved response to social needs and potential dissemination of the results. The mandate will be considered in light of the public authority's area of competence.

Do partners in the project need a mandate from the public authority?

No. There are no specific eligibility criteria applying to the partner organisations with the exception of having at least one partner from one other PROGRESS-participating country.

A public authority states its support for the applicant's proposal by means of a mandate: what form of support should the mandate take?

The mandate consists of written support in the proposed social experiments by a public authority. This "mandate" should be interpreted as an expression of interest to provide a solution to a social need and a potential vector of dissemination of the experience acquired. The public authority in question should, of course, have the requisite competence in the domain of the proposed innovative experiment.

Might one consider the staff costs of an employee of a partner of the project, financed 100% by public funds, as eligible costs and constituting a part of the national contribution to the project (20% of the total cost)? The costs are specifically related to the action foreseen under the project.

These costs can be considered eligible in as far as they refer to costs really incurred and specifically related to the action, as stated above. As regards contributions in cash, there is no reason why they may not be included in the income of the project under the co-financing heading.

Can financing from a private company participating in the project be considered eligible if it refers to costs connected specifically to the action? Can they be regarded as cofinancing?

The financing of costs by a private company is eligible as co-financing in as far as this involves partners in the project under the conditions defined in point 3.1 of the call (eligibility of the proposal).

In the call it is stated that "...this call will <u>not</u> support projects proposing direct delivery of benefits or in kind services to the population. In this respect PROGRESS is different from the European Social Fund...". What does this mean?

In the text of the call, the last § before the part 3 should be interpreted in light of the provisions of Article 9 "type of action" of Council Decision No 1672/2006/EC OF the EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL of 24 October 2006 establishing a Community programme for employment and social solidarity - Progress to which you are invited to refer to:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:315:0001:0008:EN:PDF. As a consequence of these provisions costs directly due to the population within the framework of the social experimentation (such as payment of social benefits) may not be covered within the framework of this call.

Does this Call fund only the evaluations of projects (where an evaluation consists of social experimentation) or would it also fund the project (that is, the project being evaluated) itself?

From the text of the call it is clear that funding is not limited to evaluation costs. For further information, please read Article 9 "type of actions" of the decision n° 1672/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity — Progress (http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:315:0001:0008:EN:PDF). One limit to support is that the cost of direct benefits to the population, such as social benefits, will not be supported.

In the call it is stated that "applicants are also invited to assess the opportunity of linking the project with actions or interest carried out under the ESF, including EQUAL". Does this mean that we could underline the link with other projects (and related results) already implemented or does it imply the possibility/invitation to consider projects currently cofinanced in the framework of ESF?

The Commission would welcome projects which highlight the policy and methodological lessons learnt through the implementation of the ESF, and in particular EQUAL, as well as projects prepared in synergy with the use of the ESF. However simultaneous co-financing with ESF, or any other contribution from the budget of the EU, is not allowed (article 111 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities).

Is it possible for a public authority to submit a project proposal as lead-applicant (project 1) if under this same call for proposals it gave the mandate to another organization for another project (project 2)?

Nothing in the text of the call prevents a public authority from participating in one project as a lead applicant and also providing a mandate to a non-profit body or organisation of general interest for another project.