Brussels, 13 March 2019

CALL FOR PROPOSALS UCPM-2019-PP-AG
PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS PROJECTS IN CIVIL PROTECTION AND MARINE POLLUTION
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Is a way to submit a new proposal for 2019 pointing out that it is a resubmission and the result of a core idea that has been improved thanks to the comments of the reviewers?**

   As a general rule, unsuccessful applications may always be submitted following other calls for proposals provided that the proposed action meets the objectives of the call for proposals.

   The UCPM-2019-PP-AG call for proposals does not include any specific question on whether the proposal has already been submitted in answer to previous calls for proposals. Annex 1 *Description of Action Part B* includes questions on EU funding received only.

   It is up to the applicants to decide whether they want to keep or change the acronym of the proposed action when resubmitting an unsuccessful application. The UCPM-2019-PP-AG call for proposals does not provide for any rule regarding the acronym or title of the action.

2. **Regarding the limit of applications submitted for the call for proposals for Prevention and Preparedness Projects in Civil Protection and Marine Pollution: is there a limit to how many consortium same Legal Entity can be a member of?**

   Chapter 5 of the call for proposals document sets out the conditions for participants and consortia to be considered eligible for co-funding under call for proposals UCPM-2019-PP-AG. It does not set out any limit to the number of grants for which a given participant may apply.
3. **Is it possible for the same institution to be a participating entity in more than one UCPM proposal. If so, would this apply even if the two proposals are for the same topic (e.g. prevention)?**

   It is possible for the same institution to be a participating entity in one or several UCPM proposals under the same topic. Please note, however, that you can only submit one application per project.


   Yes, NGOs may participate. Please refer to Chapter 5 *Eligibility conditions* of the Call for Proposals document.

5. **The eligibility conditions are not clear for us, more precisely we are not sure of being eligible as a county-level local public body whose activities are not specifically the prevention and preparedness in civil protection and marine pollution. The applicants’ activity reports of last year must contain several activities regarding prevention and preparedness in civil protection and marine pollution? If it does not contain, the applicant will be considered ineligible?**

   Consortium must demonstrate that they have the know-how and qualifications to successfully implement the project (including sufficient experience in EU/transnational projects of comparable size). The operational capacity of each consortium will be assessed on the basis of the experience of the applicants and their staff, previous years’ activity reports, CV’s.

6. **With regard to the Letter of Support from the National CP Authority that each partner has to submit should both boxes be checked? “This National Central Civil Protection/Maritime Authority - Has been informed about the submission of the above mentioned proposal for Prevention and Preparedness Project - Confirms that the proposed action is in line with the national civil protection strategy and addresses well-identified needs in the country”**

   The letters of support give the national civil protection or maritime authorities the opportunity to clarify whether and how the proposed action meets their needs and is in line with their priorities. It is up to the national civil protection or maritime authorities to assess whether they tick one or both boxes in the template provided in the submission tool of the Funding and Tenders Portal.

7. **Every beneficiary needs to provide a Letter of Support as part of the proposal. During the Infoday we were told that this letter needs to be issued by the COMPETENT authority (ministry, etc.) on the NATIONAL level. For centrally organized countries the competent authority in Civil Protection (and more) is on the national level. In Germany, however, many competences, civil protection among others, have been delegated by the Constitution to the level of the Länder (states), and they host the competent authorities (ministries). In the case of Fulda university as a beneficiary NATIONAL would imply the**
(Federal) Ministry of Interior in Berlin, COMPETENT the Hessian Ministry of Interior in Wiesbaden. Do we have to address the national level (Berlin) or the competent ministry in Hessen (Wiesbaden), or whether we can choose between the two?

Under the terms of Chapter 4 of the Call Document, the application must be endorsed by the national civil protection authority (or maritime authority for projects focusing on marine pollution) for each country which will benefit from the action. To that effect, the national civil protection/maritime authority must fill in and sign the specific form available in the application module of the Funding and Tenders Portal.

8. **What is the maximum number of pages for a project proposal?**

As indicated in the template *Project Technical Description (Part B)*, the size of this document is limited to 50 pages. Any excess pages will be disregarded.

9. **What will happen in the event of a withdrawal deal – will the UK be able to participate? What happens in the event of a no-deal Brexit?** The eligibility is quite stringent but I am wondering what criteria the UK would be classed as after the 29th March 2019.

In the event where the EU and the UK would both ratify the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community (‘the Withdrawal Agreement’), UK-based entities would continue to be eligible to take part in EU-financed programmes until the end of a transition period (i.e. in principle until 31 December 2020) in the same conditions as if the UK was still a EU Member State.

In the absence of ratification of the Withdrawal Agreements by either side (‘no deal’), UK-based entities will be considered as entities based in a third country and their eligibility to take part in a given EU-financed programme, as of the date on which the exit of the UK becomes effective (in principle as of 30 March 3019), will depend on the specific terms and conditions set out in the EU programme concerned.

With respect to the UCPM, it appears from Article 28 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU that the participation of entities based in a third country is limited to very specific situations, none of which would appear to apply to the UK on the date of it exiting the EU in case of ‘no deal’.

10. **The call provides two types of pipeline in terms of eligibility, as stated:**

A) Internal budget: EUR 2 400 000 for projects benefitting Participating States of the UCPM;

B) External budget: EUR 900 000 for projects benefitting countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement countries not yet participating in the UCPM.

Would a consortium consisting of one consortium lead based in Poland and two co-applicants based in Armenia and Georgia be eligible to submit their application in one of the above categories?
The eligibility rules for the 2019 Call for proposals for prevention and preparedness projects in civil protection and marine pollution are stipulated in chapter 5 of the Call document.

With regard to geographical eligibility requirements, entities established in one of the UCPM Participating States, i.e. the 28 EU Member States, Iceland, Norway, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey, are eligible for funding under both internal and external budgets.

In addition, entities established in one of the eligible third countries, i.e.

- Instrument for Pre-Accession IPA II countries not participating in the UCPM: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo,
- European Neighbourhood Policy countries: Armenia, Azerbaijian, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia

are eligible for funding under the external budget only.

As a minimum the partnership for projects financed under the internal budget item should include one of the following combinations:

a) 3 entities from three different Participating States (one as lead consortium partner),
b) 2 entities from two different Participating States (one as lead consortium partner) + 1 International Organisation,
c) 1 entity from Participating States (lead consortium partner) + 2 different International Organisations.

As a minimum the partnership for projects financed under the external budget item should include one of the following combinations:

a) 2 entities from two different Participating States (one as lead consortium partner) + 1 entity from IPAII/ENP countries,
b) 1 entity from Participating States (lead consortium partner) + 1 International Organisation + 1 entity from IPAII/ENP countries,
c) 1 entity from Participating States (lead consortium partner) + 2 entities from two different IPAII/ENP countries.

Therefore a consortium including co-applicants based in the IPA II countries or in the European Neighbourhood Policy countries (Armenia or Georgia in your example) would be eligible under the external budget only (provided that the lead consortium member is based in one of the UCPM Participating States and that the other eligibility criteria described in Chapter 5 of the Call document are met).

11. Is Switzerland an eligible country under the current call for proposals?

Switzerland is NOT an eligible country.

The eligibility rules for the 2019 Call for proposals for prevention and preparedness activities are stipulated in chapter 5 of the Call document. With regard to geographical eligibility requirements, entities established in one of the UCPM
Participating States, i.e. 28 EU Member States, Iceland, Norway, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey, are eligible for funding under both internal and external budgets.

In addition, entities established in one of the eligible third countries, i.e.

- Instrument for Pre-Accession IPA II countries not participating in the UCPM: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo
- European Neighbourhood Policy countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia

are eligible for funding under the external budget only.

12. Are Greenland and other OCTA members (Association of the Overseas Countries and Territories of the European Union) eligible applicants to the Call for proposals for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness actions under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism?

Greenland is an autonomous region, which belongs to the Kingdom of Denmark.

Greenland qualifies as an Overseas Country and Territory (OCT)\(^1\) and is an OCTA member. Therefore, natural persons from an OCTA member, where applicable, the relevant public and/or private bodies and institutions established in an OCTA member, are eligible to apply for programmes and arrangements applicable to the member state to which the OCT is linked (i.e. for Greenland, programmes and arrangements applicable to Denmark). Subsequently, entities established in an OCTA member (i.e. Greenland) are eligible to apply also to this Call for proposals under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism\(^2\) and can participate in the consortium provided that eligibility conditions of the consortium have already been fulfilled (i.e. Greenland can participate in addition to entities which already form an eligible consortium).

For example: a consortium with entities from Italy, Germany, France AND Greenland is eligible under the internal budget item. On the contrary, a consortium with entities from Italy, Germany and Greenland is not eligible.

The Faeroe Islands do not form part of the European Union and the treaties are not applicable to them. Subsequently, entities established in the Faeroe Islands are not eligible to apply to this Call for proposals under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

---


13. Which exact participation rules on calls for proposals on prevention and preparedness exist for international organisations? Are they eligible for funding if they are based in Switzerland?

International organisations cannot act as lead consortium partner (i.e. cannot act as coordinators). Under the current call for proposals, the geographical link with eligible countries is not required for international organisations (i.e. it is not required that the branch office/headquarter is established in an eligible country). Therefore, an international organisation based in Switzerland could be an eligible member of the consortium.

Please see below an explanation of the minimum consortium requirements detailed in section 5 of the Call Document, including the rules for consortium including an international organisation.

As a minimum the partnership for projects financed under the internal budget item should include one of the following combinations:

(a) 3 entities from three different Participating States (one as lead consortium partner),

(b) 2 entities from two different Participating States (one as lead consortium partner) + 1 International Organisation,

(c) 1 entity from Participating States (lead consortium partner) + 2 different International Organisations.

As a minimum the partnership for projects financed under the external budget item should include one of the following combinations:

(a) 2 entities from two different Participating States (one as lead consortium partner) + 1 entity from IPAII/ENP,

(b) 1 entity from Participating States (lead consortium partner) + 1 International Organisation + 1 entity from IPAII/ENP,

(c) 1 entity from Participating States (lead consortium partner) + 2 entities from two different IPAII/ENP.

Entities established in Switzerland do not comply with the above requirements and therefore cannot carry out project management tasks. Consequently, these entities cannot act as beneficiaries and/or coordinators in the projects to be awarded under the current call for proposals.

An Administrative Arrangement (AA) has been concluded in April 2017 between the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, the Federal Office for Civil Protection and the Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), with the aim of enhancing coordination, cooperation, the exchange of information, best practices and knowledge. However, the AA does not entail any financial commitments for the services, nor does it establish the eligibility of Swiss entities for funding under Decision No

14. **Which is the usual dimension of a partnership in Prevention/Preparedness projects?**

Consortia must include at least 3 partners from different eligible countries or international organisations. See chapter 5 of the Call for Proposals document and the previous question for details on the composition of consortia.

The Call for Proposals document does not provide for any maximum number of partners.

As stated in the Call for Proposals document, the composition of consortia should be focused and include a number of entities that is commensurate to the outcomes the project aims to achieve.

15. **Is prevention priority 1 more important than 2, and 2 more important than 3?**

No, prevention priorities and preparedness priorities are equally important. They are not listed by degree of importance.

16. **Could the coordinator be a local government/city?**

The coordinator can be a legal entity (public or private) from a Participating State. The coordinator should have the legal capacity to make binding amendments to its rights, duties and obligations (i.e. capacity to sign the grant agreements; the ability to legally sue and be sued in its own name).

17. **Is there any network in order to find partners?**

You can search for partners by looking at


- the Funding and Tenders Portal: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home). It now offers the possibility to look for partners directly in the context of individual call topics (open and forthcoming). Participants can access the list of existing partner search request for a given topic via the individual call topic pages (example). From the same place, Legal Entity Appointed Representatives (LEARs) can also create new partner search requests on behalf of their organisation. Detailed guidance is available [here](#).

---

18. **Participation at no cost basis.**

Only eligible entities can participate in the projects, regardless of whether the costs they incur will be reported and co-financed or not.

19. **Can management and coordination activities start before January 2020?**

The expenses related to project activities can be considered eligible from the official starting date of the project and not before 1 September 2019, provided that all other eligibility requirements listed in article 6 of the grant agreement are met.

20. **How many proposals related to the Call for Proposals 2018 on Prevention and Preparedness have been submitted?**

Following call for proposals UCPM-2018-PP-AG:

- 41 applications have been received and 7 are being funded under the prevention topic,
- 43 applications have been received and 6 are being funded under the preparedness topic.

21. **Is it possible to finance some activities from a project within Prevention and Preparedness with money from the exercise call?**

No. Each call document specifies the types of activities that can be financed under that call for proposals. A grant awarded following one call for proposals cannot finance project or activities receiving funding from another call for proposals.