

## FAQ 2

### Question 1: Are CSO applicants required to propose a concrete project for piloting of an Integrity Pact in their application?

- There is no requirement to refer to a specific project in the CSO application. However, if the CSO applicant has a concrete project in mind for an IP, it can be used to illustrate the answer given to the question on the intended approach (question 4). The most important thing is for the applicant to show that they understand the role of the monitor and have a clear idea for how to go about planning for how to carry out this role when a project is identified.

### Question 2: In case a CSO applicant wants to apply in coalition with another CSO, should each CSO fill out an application form or will one common application suffice?

- One application will suffice. It should be filled out with the information of all organisations who are applying together.

### Question 3: If a public authority and a CSO apply for the same project, should their budget proposals (in each application) be linked?

- CSOs and Public Authorities are not required to provide the same kind of information in their respective applications:
  - Public Authorities are asked to give an estimate of the **overall budget of each of the projects** that they would like to propose for piloting an Integrity Pact. This is for the purposes of understanding the expected size and complexity of the proposed project. Public Authorities are not asked to submit a budget proposal for IP monitoring (implementation of IP). Public Authorities are not expected to receive any funding from DG REGIO for their participation in an IP.
  - CSO applicants are asked to submit a budget estimate for fulfilling the role of a Monitor in an Integrity Pact. The estimate could be based on a real project which CSO would like to monitor (would like to propose for monitoring) or on a project example. This estimate will be used to assess whether the CSO applicant has good understanding of the potential workload for a potential IP and what the role of a Monitor of an Integrity Pact would entail.

Accordingly, there is no requirement for CSO applicants to propose a budget in coordination with a Public Authority. However, if they wish to coordinate with a respective Public Authority, they may.

### Question 4: Does the budget submitted by CSO applicants in their application need to be final?

- The budget submitted in the application does not need to be final. We expect CSO applicants to make assumptions as regards the scope of the project and of the Independent Monitor's role, and, based on these assumptions, to provide estimates. Importantly enough, the thought process, the rationale behind these assumptions should be clearly stated in the application form so the evaluators can assess how realistic the approach envisaged by the CSO applicant for the role of Independent Monitor is. A final budget will need to be worked out only if a CSO applicant (and public authorities) will be shortlisted to submit a final project proposal at the next stage after June.

### Question 5: Is there an upper limit for the budget proposal?

- There is no upper limit for CSO applicants' budget proposals. The estimates should be **realistic** and understandable, showing the applicants' ability to assess what the role of an Independent Monitor entails and what workload and resources they would need to fulfil this role in practice. The feasibility of the budget is important.

**Question 6: Does the CSO applicant need to wait until a Public Authority has expressed interest to submit an application?**

- No, there is no need to wait; the CSO applicant can submit an application before a Public Authority expresses their interest. However, if no Public Authority has applied by the deadline of the Call, the CSO applicant cannot be shortlisted.

**Question 7: Does the other application have to come from a Managing Authority?**

- No, it doesn't have to. It can come from a Managing Authority or from an Intermediate Body (for example, from a Ministry responsible for the proposed project) or from a Contracting Authority / Beneficiary.

**Question 8: Can an Integrity Pact be applied to several tender/public procurement procedures?**

- The IP takes place at the project level. If a project encompasses several tender/public procurement procedures, then the IP can be applied to all of them. Actually, a project which would require several public procedures would be more interesting for piloting IP.

**Question 9: What happens if more than one Public Authority applies in one country?**

This project is a pilot and the European Commission would like to test Integrity Pacts for a variety of projects. Therefore the more diverse the proposed projects are, the better. If more than one Public Authority will apply in one country, all applications will be considered. If more than one will be shortlisted, there will be further discussions between shortlisted Public Authorities and CSOs before the final selection takes place to ensure that the best project for an IP in the country is chosen. There is no rule that only one IP pilot per member state could be selected. So, it is not excluded that 2 projects could be selected for piloting of IP. Of course, the amount of the available funding for the Phase 2 will have impact on the decision.