

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2017CE16BAT063

'Support for information measures relating to the EU Cohesion policy'

1. OBJECTIVES AND THEMES

With the current call for proposals, the European Commission seeks to select potential beneficiaries for the implementation of a number of information measures¹ co-financed by the EU. The main aim is to provide support for the production and dissemination of information and content linked to EU Cohesion policy, while respecting complete editorial independence of the actors involved.

The specific objectives of this call for proposals are:

- To promote and foster a better understanding of the role of Cohesion policy in supporting all EU's regions;
- To increase awareness of projects funded by the EU - through Cohesion policy in particular - and of their impact on people's lives;
- To disseminate information and encourage an open dialogue on Cohesion policy, its results, its role in delivering on the EU's political priorities and on its future;
- To encourage civic participation in matters related to Cohesion policy and to foster citizens' participation to setting priorities for the future of this policy.

The proposals shall illustrate and assess the role of Cohesion policy in delivering the European Commission's political priorities and in addressing current and future challenges for the EU, its Member States, its regions and the local level. More specifically, they should relate to the contribution of Cohesion policy to:

- boosting jobs, growth and investment at the regional and national level, and improving citizens' quality of life;
- helping deliver on the EU's and Member States' major priorities – which include, in addition to job and growth creation, addressing climate change, protecting environment, enhancing research and innovation, among others;
- enhancing economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU while reducing disparities between and within EU countries and regions;
- helping regions harness globalisation by finding their niche in the world economy;
- reinforcing the European project as Cohesion policy directly serves EU citizens.

2. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants (lead and co-applicants as well as affiliated entities if any) must be legal entities established and registered in an EU Member State. Examples of eligible applicants are:

- media organisations/news agencies (television, radio, written press, online media, new media, combination of different media);
- non-profit organizations;
- universities and educational institutions;
- research centres and think-tanks;

¹ For the purpose of this call for proposals, an 'information measure' is a self-contained and coherent set of information activities relating to the EU Cohesion policy.

- public authorities (national, regional and local), not qualified as managing authorities²

Natural persons, as well as entities established for the sole purpose of the implementation of the projects within this call for proposals are not eligible applicants.

For British applicants: the eligibility criteria must be complied with for the entire duration of the grant. If the United Kingdom withdraws from the EU during the grant period without concluding an agreement with the EU ensuring in particular that British applicants continue to be eligible, you will cease to receive EU funding (while continuing, where possible, to participate) or be required to leave the project on the basis of Article II.17 of the grant agreement.

3. EXCLUSION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

The applicant (lead and co-applicants) and affiliated entities must sign a declaration on their honour certifying that they are not in one of the situations referred to in Articles 106(1) and 107 of the Financial Regulation (FR)³ (concerning exclusion and rejection from the procedure respectively).

The applicant (lead and co-applicants) must have the operational capacity as well as stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period during which the project is being carried out or the year for which the grant is awarded and to participate in its funding.

4. AWARD CRITERIA

The different tools and activities included in the projects should be interconnected, clear in their conceptual approach and in the results to be achieved. They should also have a significant impact that can be measured through relevant indicators. They should have a regional focus.

Applications will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

	Criteria	Elements to be taken into consideration	Weighting (points)
1.	Relevance of the measure and contribution to the objectives of the call for proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance of the objectives of the proposal with regard to the objectives and priorities of the call for proposals • Relevance of the types of information actions used with regards to the region(s) • Added value to existing initiatives across the regions in Europe • Innovative character of the project with regard to the evolution of the communication landscape, e.g. multimedia dimension of the proposed action • Ex-ante analysis of the information measure in respect of the target audience 	35 points; (minimum threshold 50%)
2.	Outreach and effectiveness of the measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific, measurable, attainable and relevant objectives in terms of outreach and dissemination • Ability of the outreach plan (including for example a broadcast schedule, channel(s) of distribution and number of guaranteed contacts based on previous records) to maximise reach per target audience at local, regional, multiregional and national level (multiplier effect), for example via cooperation of applicants with networks and/or regional actors/media 	35 points; (minimum threshold 50%)

² http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/what/glossary/m/managing-authority

³ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the European Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) NO 1605/2002 (OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectiveness of proposed methodologies to reach the objectives of this call, including methods for content production, mechanism to ensure editorial independence and methods to build technical solutions Publicity planned for the activities and methods for disseminating results Measures to monitor progress Ex-post evaluation methodology Possibilities for continuation of the project beyond the requested period of EU support 	
3.	Efficiency of the measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost-effectiveness in terms of the proposed resources, taking into account costs as well as expected results 	20 points; minimum threshold 50%)
4.	Organisation of the project team and quality of the project management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of the proposed coordination mechanisms, quality control systems and arrangements to manage risks Quality of the allocation of tasks in view of implementing the activities of the proposed measure 	10 points; minimum threshold 50%)

A maximum of 100 points will be awarded for the quality of the proposal. The required minimum overall score is 60 points out of 100, while a minimum score of 50 % is required for each criterion. Only the proposals meeting the above-mentioned quality thresholds will be put onto the ranking list. Reaching the threshold doesn't automatically imply award of the grant.

5. BUDGET AND PROJECT DURATION

The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of information measures under this call is estimated at EUR 4 000 000.

The grant amount will be minimum EUR 70 000 and maximum EUR 500 000. The maximum amount of the grant cannot be exceeded. The EU grant will take the form of reimbursement of up to 80% of the actual eligible costs of the action. Applicants must guarantee the co-financing of the remaining amount covered by their own resources.

The indicative duration of the actions should be 12 months (1 February 2018 - 31 January 2019).

6. TIMETABLE AND DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

Stages	Date and time period
Deadline for submitting applications	16 October 2017
Evaluation period (indicative)	November - December 2017
Information to applicants (indicative)	January 2018
Signature of grant agreements (indicative)	February 2018

7. FURTHER INFORMATION

The application forms as well as additional information on the call for proposals can be found in the guidelines for applicants available at http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/funding-opportunities/calls-for-proposal/

Applications must comply with the requirements set out in the above-mentioned guidelines for applicants.