

VP/2014/012 – Questions and answers

Title of the call: BUDGET HEADING 04 03 02 01 - EaSI - PROGRESS – European Sector Skills Councils

Last updated on: 21/08/2014

Question 1) Is the call open only for already established European Sector Skills Councils or it is open for actions in the already studied sectors?

Answer 1) Please refer to the Call text point "**3.2. Types of actions**" and to the following paragraphs:

"The activities to be co-financed should be exclusively related to the functioning of the European sector skills council."

"Projects can only be submitted for sectors which have conducted and finalised an EU-financed feasibility study for a European Sector Skills Council. The present call will not finance feasibility studies for setting up sector skills councils."

Question 2) Can an organisation from Iceland be applicant (lead applicant or co-applicant)?

Answer 2) The text of the calls does foresee that applicants should check eligibility for this country with the secretariat of the call (point 7.2).

In addition, the DECISION OF THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE No 151/2014 amending Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms was adopted on 27 June 2014. This means that for the above-mentioned call launched under the EaSI PROGRESS axis, Iceland now becomes eligible.

Question 3) Where can the document referred in point 11 of the Annex I can be found?

Answer 3) the point 11 of the Annex I "Checklist" refers to "**Profit and loss accounts and balance sheet summary for the lead and co-applicant organisations which must follow the template provided in SWIM and must be signed by the legal representative of each organisation (not applicable for public bodies)**". This is a print-out of the SWIM annexes to be downloaded, filled and signed as indicated.

Question 4) A part from the current open call, are foreseen other Calls which also finance the feasibility study phase?

Answer 4) The answer to this question is depending on the future decisions of the Commission and is not related to the present call.

Question 5) It is stated in the Call for Proposals, that "The present call will not finance feasibility studies for setting up sector skills councils. Projects can only be submitted for sectors which have conducted and finalised an EU-financed feasibility study for a European Sector Skills Council. The activities to be co-financed should be exclusively related to the functioning of the European sector skills council."

Does this mean that only this list of current projects can be continued (<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=784>) or can also other

institutions (which do not need feasibility studies) participate? Can there be several councils for the same sector?

Answer 5) We reserve the answer only to the parts of your question which are relevant for this call.

As it is stated in the section 3.2. of the present Call for Proposals, that "*The present call will not finance feasibility studies for setting up sector skills councils. Projects can only be submitted for sectors which have conducted and finalised an EU-financed feasibility study for a European Sector Skills Council. The activities to be co-financed should be exclusively related to the functioning of the European sector skills council.*" which applies to the sectors listed on (<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=784>) as detailed in the footnote 4 on the p. 5 of the present call.

The call is open to organisations which did not participate in the feasibility studies, provided that the activities concern one of the sectors mentioned above.

Question 6) The feasibility studies in our sector, have been conducted and finalised already last year.

Are we eligible to apply now or is this call only for those sectors that have already established Sector Skills Councils and are applying for the second tranche of funding?

Answer 6) To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the Contracting Authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of applicants, or affiliated entity(ies), an action or specific activities.

As it is stated in the section 3.2 of the present Call for Proposals, "*The present call will not finance feasibility studies for setting up sector skills councils. Projects can only be submitted for sectors which have conducted and finalised an EU-financed feasibility study for a European Sector Skills Council. The activities to be co-financed should be exclusively related to the functioning of the European sector skills council.*". This applies to the projects listed on (<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=784>) as detailed in the footnote 4 on the p. 5 of the present call.

Please pay attention to the section with detailed information on co-financing the "*First period activities (for sectors which have not already benefited from a previous co-financing to run a European sector skills Council)*" in the section 3.2 on the p.6. of the present call which could be relevant for your proposal in case of compliance with all other eligibility, selection and award criteria as detailed in the call.

Question 7) Is it possible to present proposal for 50 million Euro?

Answer 7) As indicated on the p. 9, in the par. 5, AVAILABLE BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS, the total indicative amount available for this call for proposals is EUR 600.000. Grants are expected to be in the range of EUR 300 000 per application selected. And as detailed on the p. 4, par. 3.2, Types of actions, under this call, the Commission supports the creation of European Sector Councils on Employment and Skills ("European sector skills council" in short).

Question 8) Can we receive the Call text in Spanish?

Answer 8) Please be informed that the English version of the Call is the original one.

As for the submission of the applications, as indicated in section 6.1 of the Call, *"it should be noted that applications in other EU Community language will be accepted"*. However, please do note that the online SWIM system to submit the application is only available in EN, FR and DE.

"Applications must be submitted electronically online (see section 8 below) and sent by post to the European Commission by the deadline for submission indicated below, preferably in English, French, or German language. However, it should be noted that applications in other EU Community language will be accepted."

Question 9) Is Serbia an eligible country for this call?

Answer 9) No. Serbia has not signed the framework partnership agreement to participate in EaSI.

Question 10) Does the consortium need to include international partners?

Answer 10) As stated under section 3 – *"The composition of the consortium"*, the consortium shall include organisations from at least 10 Member States. Please refer also to the eligibility criteria listed under section 7.2 of the call.

Question 11) How many projects will the call fund?

Answer 11) The amount available is 600.000, which corresponds to two projects in the range of 300.000.

Question 12) Can the beneficiary's contribution be covered through a contribution in kind or through staff costs?

Answer 12) The call mentions that contributions in kind (i.e. contributions for which no financial flow can be traced in the written accounts like unpaid charity work by a private individual or corporate body, etc.) will not be taken into account.

The financial guidelines mention that the beneficiary's contribution should be "an effective expenditure, i.e. a financial flow that can be traced in the written accounts. Placing a civil servant remunerated by a public administration, or an employee of a company or organisation, at the disposal of the project is treated as a cash contribution since this gives rise to an expense that can be identified in the accounts of these administrations or organisations."