

Questions and answers on call VP/2018/007

Question: Concernant l'appel à propositions VP/2018/007 je voulais savoir si en tant qu'association nous pouvons déposer un projet concernant le volet 2.

Le projet est le suivant

«...étendre la portée des partenariats transfrontaliers existants au moyen d'une action ciblée de promotion des offres d'emploi dans un secteur spécifique pour lequel il existe une demande d'un côté de la/des frontière(s), mais pas de l'autre, et développer des mesures dans la région transfrontalière tout entière afin de pourvoir les postes vacants en question»;

La zone frontalière en question serait le Pays Basque (France/Espagne); où côté français nous recherchons des enseignants bascophones, et côté espagnol les enseignants bascophones sont à la recherche d'emploi.

L'idée est d'embaucher des espagnols bascophones, et de les employer côté français en tant qu'enseignant de basque tout en leur garantissant une formation pédagogique et une formation linguistique pour l'apprentissage du français.

Ces personnes se formeraient pendant 1, 2 ou 3 ans chez nous, et par la suite pourraient: soit préparer un concours pour devenir enseignant titulaire de l'éducation nationale, soit continuer à travailler chez-nous, dans les écoles publiques ou les écoles confessionnelles du Pays Basque de France.

Answer: For reasons of equal treatment the Commission services cannot at call's publication stage assess proposals nor help to draft proposals. Such committee can under no circumstances perform its duties prior to the submission of proposals. Our reply to your questions has to be considered as a clarification of the published call for proposals document and under no circumstances as an assessment of parts of a proposal. The eligibility of your entity/consortium will be assessed against the criteria and supporting documents that you are invited to provide.

As specified in the call please refer to **6.1 Eligibility criteria of the applicants:**

b) Type of entities – strand 2

To be eligible, applicants (lead and co-applicants) must fall in one of the categories listed below:

- the National EURES Coordination Office(s) as designated in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/58921
- the EURES member(s)/partners(s) of the regions involved with the endorsement of the National Coordination Office (see footnote 5)
- social partner organisations at European, national or regional level (in application of Article 131 of the Financial Regulation, social partner organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met);

- public or private employment services
- third sector organisations
- other relevant actors active on the EU/EEA labour market including European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation

Question: With reference with the above mentioned proposal we would like to ask for the following clarification under strand 1 category B) 2 and 3 and the role of the Eures/Euradria advisers.

In the previous call these categories were as follows:

1. To offer, through EURES staff of the organisations participating in the partnership client services to actual and potential frontier workers by providing information and advice on job vacancies and job applications as well as on living and working conditions and other relevant information related to the labour market in the cross-border region, such as social security, taxation and labour law;
2. To offer, through the EURES staff of the organisations participating in the partnership client services to employers by providing information and advice on recruiting (frontier) workers from the bordering Member States, on how to tap on the potential skills pool in the cross-border region, on how to draft and advertise job vacancies and job applications for the cross-border labour market and on how to develop a welcoming culture and integration policy for workers from the cross border region.

From those points we could understand that Eures staff could be partially covered by the staff budget. To this regard we would kindly ask you if in this ongoing call we can consider again Eures staff to be covered by the project activities and budget. In case of negative answer we would like to understand how we can involve Eures staff that is usually in daily activities devoted in cross border services both to employers and frontier workers.

Answer: According to the rules applicable to EU funded projects (see financial guide lines and draft grant agreement), to be eligible costs must be incurred by the beneficiary or (if applicable) his affiliated entities. Therefore if the EURES staff mentioned in your question is employed and paid by one of the co-applicant/co-beneficiaries organisations the related costs could be considered as eligible if all other conditions of eligibility are fulfilled.

The relevance of the tasks to be carried out by the staff in question, to the call objectives will be assessed during the evaluation phase of the award criteria.

Question: I am reaching you on behalf of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR). AEBR is a non profit network of European organizations which has its headquarters based in Germany. We have members all around Europe, including Spain.

We have some doubts regarding the eligibility of our organization as a co-applicant for the Strand 1 of the call taking into consideration that:

The applicant would be an entity from Andalucia (Spain), the co-applicant would be an entity from Algarve (Portugal).

Could we also be co-applicants even though we have our headquarters based in Germany (since we have different members in Spain)?

If we could not be eligible as co-applicants, could we be eligible as an affiliated entity?

Answer: For reasons of equal treatment the Commission services cannot at call's publication stage assess proposals nor help to draft proposals. Such committee can under no circumstances perform its duties prior to the submission of proposals. Our reply to your questions has to be considered as a clarification of the published call for proposals document and under no circumstances as an assessment of parts of a proposal. When deciding to submit an application, the onus is on the applicant to provide the necessary supporting documents, establishing its eligibility with the requirements of the Call.

As specified in the Call text on page 18: **Consortia**

a) Consortia - strand 1. To be eligible, applications must as a minimum:

- Represent entities established in at least two neighbouring Member States, i.e. proposals must have the involvement of the lead applicant and at least one EURES member or partner established in a neighbouring Member State as **co-applicant**.
- Include social partners

If the lead applicant is not considered to be eligible, the application will be rejected.

If a co-applicant is considered not to be eligible, this organisation will be removed from the consortium and the eligibility of the modified consortium will be re-evaluated. In addition, the costs that are allocated to a non-eligible co-applicant will be removed from the budget. If the modified consortium is still eligible, the application will be evaluated on that basis. If the application is accepted for funding, the work plan will have to be adapted as appropriate.

The country taken into account is the **place of establishment** (see section 6.1.1) of the headquarters of your entity.

Affiliated entities are entitled to participate to this call but are not part of the consortium. Only lead applicants and co-applicants are part of the consortium and may be considered for the fulfilment of the mandatory eligibility requirements for the consortium.

Question: I am sending this e-mail in order to request some information about the call VP/2018/007 Cross-border partnerships and support to cooperation on intra-EU mobility for EEA countries and social partners.

1.) We are interested for the strand 1. First of all, I would like to ask if there is a budget limitation for the strand 1.

Answer: Yes, the budget limitation for strand 1 is EUR 6,123, 523 as can be seen on page 15 of the call text. This is the total amount that the Commission may verse under this strand among the successful applicants for this very strand. The Commission reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available or to increase the amount of funds available and distribute them to proposals admitted in the reserve list, if one is established.

2.) Secondly, in the type of entities that are eligible is the **third sector organization**. A non-governmental organization dealing with vulnerable groups is an eligible one?

Answer: For reasons of equal treatment the Commission services cannot at call's publication stage assess proposals nor help to draft proposals. Such committee can under no circumstances perform its duties prior to the submission of proposals. Our reply to your questions has to be considered as a clarification of the published call for proposals document and under no circumstances as an assessment of parts of a proposal.

Third sector organisations may take a number of legal forms. Many are simple associations of people with shared values and objectives. Many have company status but with a not-for-personal-profit approach. Very many have charitable status or are community interest companies, industrial and provident societies or co-operatives

When deciding to submit an application, the onus is on the applicant to provide the necessary supporting documents, establishing its eligibility with the requirements of the Call.

In the context of our call for proposals, third sector organisations include the following range of not for profit and non- governmental social organisations:

- voluntary and community organisations (both registered charities and other organisations such as associations, self-help groups and community groups), social enterprises, mutual, co-operatives, ...

Question: In the last years co-applicants and affiliated entities had to present a “letter of commitment”. To be sure, we kindly ask you to confirm, that - in line with the “Checklist of documents to be submitted” - this is no longer required.

Answer: Yes, the letter of commitment is no longer necessary. However, please make sure to describe the roles of the individual participants properly in the description of the action (see section 14.1). The declaration of honour needs to be signed by the lead applicant and the co-applicant(s) and is downloadable in SWIM.

Question: In the SWIM application the field under Heading Annexes H.2 – *Summary balance sheet and profit loss account* is indicated as compulsory.

However, according to the Call for Proposals VP/2018/007 chapter 8.1 – *Financial capacity* it is stated that: *The verification of financial capacity will not apply to public bodies.*

What kind of document is expected from a Public Body in H.2?

Answer: Indeed the verification of financial capacity will not apply to public bodies. In such cases, a blank document should be uploaded in H.2.

Question: Under chapter 2.2.3 there are 10 categories that the proposal must support. However, category 10 seems to be more of a general rule on how to understand categories 1-9. Could you please clarify this issue?

Answer: Your statement is correct. Point nr. 10 is a general rule on how to understand categories 1-9 and not a category in itself.

Question: With regard the point 2.2.2 of the call for proposals, in the footnote n. 11 there is a link to the EURES web-site where it's possible to find a list of the cross-border partnerships currently financed under the EaSI programme. If an already financed partnership (in 2015, 2016 and 2017) received a rejection by the Commission of its 2018 application under the same type of call for proposals (and for this reason it is not included in the abovementioned list), could it be considered a new cross-border partnership and submit its application for 2019 under strand 2 of the current call for proposals?

Answer: As indicated in the call text on page 9, first paragraph, under strand 2: ...projects under strand 2 shall either target cooperation in border regions that are not currently covered by cross-border partnerships or complement existing cross-border partnerships by setting up pilot actions in areas or sectors new to them”. Meaning, if your cross-border partnership is not on the list of projects currently financed under EaSI, you can apply under strand 2, as long as you fulfil the other requirements (regarding eligibility, exclusion, selection and award criteria, etc).

It should be noted that the budget made available under strand 2 is quite limited compared to the budget made available under strand 1.

Question: In case of a Consortium where three or more EU member states would like to be involved, can one of these member states be considered involved if only associated organizations (and not EURES Members and EURES Partners from that EU member state) established in its territory join to the application?

Answer: As indicated, at the end of section 6.1.3 in the call document, in addition to the eligible entities indicated in sections 6.1.2 a), b), c) and d) and as long as the minimum requirements indicated in the same section for the composition of consortia (for strands 1 and 2) are respected, the consortium may also involve affiliated entities (see section 6.1.4 below) or associate organisations, it being understood that the latter organisations may be involved only on a "no-cost" basis, i.e. no costs related to their participation may be covered by the grant.

For strand 1, to be eligible, applications must as a minimum:

- Represent entities established in at least two neighbouring Member States, i.e. proposals must have the involvement of the lead applicant and at least one EURES member or partner established in a neighbouring Member State as **co-applicant**.
- Include social partners

For strand 2, to be eligible, applications must as a minimum:

- Represent entities established in at least two neighbouring Member States, i.e. proposals must have the involvement of the lead applicant and at least one EURES member or partner established in a neighbouring Member State as **co-applicant**.