

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS – EAC/S05/2020**

### **Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees**

This call for proposals serves to implement the 2020 Annual Work Programme for the implementation of pilot projects in accordance with the Commission C(2020) 1194 of 4 March 2020.

Considering the growing number of refugees aiming to settle in the European Union there is an increasing need for effective integration and social inclusion initiatives.

Sport is one of the available tools for the successful integration of refugees, and local sport projects have an increasing role in facilitating refugees' integration into new communities. Across the European Union, at Member States' level or within European Union programmes, a wide range of initiatives have been taken and innovative projects are already being implemented.

The potential of sport as a tool for social inclusion has now been well documented; sport projects support the social inclusion of refugees in host communities and the opportunities they provide are more and more exploited in many EU Member States. This Preparatory Action is a contribution to this effort and to a better integration of refugees through sport.

#### **1. Objectives**

In the continuation of the 2016 call for proposals on "Promoting HEPA policy measures and actions for refugees", and of the 2017, 2018 and 2019 call for proposals "Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees", the current preparatory action aims at supporting sport projects focused on the integration of refugees.

Through concrete actions aiming at integrating refugees through sport, the expected outcomes of this preparatory action will include:

- Promoting the direct engagement of refugees and host communities;
- Promoting a Europe-wide approach, increasing the potential for host communities to successfully engage and integrate refugees through sport.

The term "refugee" indicates people having formal refugee status in an EU Member State as well as people who have officially applied for refugee status in the EU and whose applications have not yet been processed. People with a migration background who are not "refugees" are excluded from the scope of this call for proposals.

The implementation of the Preparatory Action will take due regard to complementarity with the EU Erasmus+ Sport programme, with the actions eligible under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), as well as with those currently funded under the pilot project 'promoting health-enhancing physical activity across Europe.'

The expected outputs would be the following:

- Organise sport activities for refugees
- Promote the practice of sport and physical activity by refugees
- Promote the cooperation of refugees and host communities in the organisation of sport activities.

## **2. Eligibility criteria**

In order to be eligible, projects must be presented by applicants meeting the following criteria:

- be a public or private organisation with legal personality who are mainly active in the sport field and that regularly organise sport competitions, at any level;
- have their registered legal office in one of the EU Member States.

Please be aware that following the entry into force of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement<sup>1</sup> on 1 February 2020 and in particular Articles 127(6), 137 and 138, the references to natural or legal persons residing or established in a Member State of the European Union are to be understood as including natural or legal persons residing or established in the United Kingdom. UK residents and entities are therefore eligible to participate under this call.

## **3. Eligible activities**

The activities must be enshrined within the framework of European common values<sup>2</sup> and respect these essential principles and more particularly non-discrimination, tolerance and gender equality.

A non-exhaustive list of the main activities eligible under this call for proposals is listed below:

- Sport activities aimed at promoting participation of refugees into EU societies
- Preparation and training of sport coaches and staff who will work on integration and social inclusion of refugees through sport
- Development, of activities and identification of good practices about participation of refugees into sport activities aimed at their integration into host societies.

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<sup>1</sup> *Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community*

<sup>2</sup> As specified under article 2 of the Treaty on European Union ((Official Journal C 326, 26/10/2012 P. 0001 – 0390): *"The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail."*

These activities must take place in the EU Member States. The duration of the project will be of a minimum of 24 months and of a maximum of 36 months.

Implementation period:

- Activities may not start before 01-01-2021
- Activities are to be completed by 31-12-2023.

Applications for projects scheduled to run for a shorter or longer period than that specified in this call for proposals will not be accepted.

#### **4. Award criteria**

Eligible applications will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

- **relevance of the project (criterion 1) (maximum 40 points – minimum threshold of 20 points):** The extent to which the proposal contributes to the objectives and priorities of the action referred above;
  - The proposal contributes to the objective of supporting refugees' integration into EU host societies through sport.
  - The proposal is based on relevant and concrete identification of the needs of refugees and of the local host communities;
  - The objectives of the proposal are clearly defined, realistic and address issues relevant to the refugees, and to the local host communities.
- **quality (criterion 2) (maximum 40 points – minimum threshold of 20 points):** The quality of the overall design of the activities proposed and methodology for achieving the objectives, including cost efficiency, sustainability of the proposed actions (the extent to which the actions will be carried out also after the end of the project) and budget proposal;
  - The quality and feasibility of the activities involving refugees.
  - Cost efficiency (the extent to which the project is cost-effective and allocates appropriate resources to each activity);
  - Sustainability of the proposed actions (the extent to which the actions will be carried out also after the end of the project);
  - Budget proposal (the consistency between project objectives, methodology, activities and budget proposed);
- **management of the project (criterion 3) (maximum 20 points – minimum threshold of 10 points):** The extent to which the applicant demonstrates its ability to organise, coordinate and implement the various aspects of the proposed activities;

- The applicant demonstrates its ability to organise, coordinate and implement the various aspects of the proposed activities.
- The project team involves an appropriate mix of experiences and expertise supporting the successful delivery of the project expected results;
- The composition and appropriateness of the proposed team and the roles allocated to the members of the team.

Points will be allocated to eligible applications out of a total of 100 on the basis of the above-specified weighting. A minimum threshold of 60 points will be applied. Applications falling below the mentioned thresholds will be rejected.

## **5. Budget available**

The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of projects under this call for proposals is estimated at 1.650.000 EUR.

The EU grant is limited to a maximum co-financing rate of 80% of eligible costs.

Grants will be of a maximum of 300.000 EUR per project

Grants will be of a minimum of 200.000 EUR per project

The Commission expects to fund approximately 6 proposals (i.e. to sign 6 grants of 275.000 EUR in average).

The Commission reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available.

## **6. Deadline for submission of applications**

Grant applications must be drawn up in one of the EU official languages, using the electronic form available on the webpage of the call for proposals.

The application form duly completed must be submitted before 01/06/2020 12:00 (noon), Brussels time). Applications sent on paper or by fax or e-mail or another way, will not be accepted.

## **7. Additional information**

In case of questions, please contact: [EAC-SPORT@EC.EUROPA.EU](mailto:EAC-SPORT@EC.EUROPA.EU)