

Call for proposals VP/2015/009
"EaSI-EURES: Mobility experience for professionals"

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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Question & Answer 1

Q: Could you please tell me whether my organisation is eligible for participation in this call for proposals?

A: Please understand that, in order to ensure equal treatment of all potential applicants, the Commission can, at this stage, not give any information on the eligibility of entities. The detailed information on the eligibility of applicants can be found in section 4 of the call text: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=629&langId=en&callId=434&furtherCalls=yes>

Question & Answer 2

Q: We plan to use a service provider for outsourcing limited parts of the project tasks. For this reason, we are already now preparing the Terms of Reference. Do we already need to go through a procurement procedure at this stage and do we have to present a "pre-contract" together with our proposal? Do we have to contact at least 3 service providers or even more?

A: For the purpose of the submission of an application, it is sufficient to attach the draft specifications for the item to be subcontracted under the proposal (see online tool SWIM). The estimated amount for the subcontracting item should appear in the draft budget. There is no need to inform the Commission at the stage of submission about the potential subcontractors or their number. According to the draft grant agreement, the beneficiary shall "*award the contract to the tender offering best value for money or, as appropriate, to the tender offering the lowest price.*" Thus, no minimum number of potential tenderers is set out.

Question & Answer 3

Q: The financial guidelines set out that those organisations submitting proposals for a grant in excess of EUR 750,000 need to present an external audit report produced by an approved auditor. Does this mean an audit report by an independent and official financial auditor (e.g. in Belgium an auditor registered at the "registre public des cabinets de révision" or are the accounts certified by the tax accountant acceptable?

A: An "approved external auditor" is an auditor officially recognised by law in the relevant Member State (e.g. in Belgium: registered "cabinet de révision"; in Germany: "Wirtschaftsprüfer/ vereidigter Buchprüfer", etc.).

Question & Answer 4

Q: Could you please clarify whether, in case of a proposal with multiple applicants and if the grant exceeds EUR 750,000, all (co-applicants) have to submit an external audit report or only those where their share of the grant exceeds this threshold?

A: It is necessary for a (co-)applicant to submit this report when they individually exceed the threshold. The threshold is not applied to the total grant but on the share of the grant for each of the (co-)applicants (e.g. a proposal is submitted by three entities and if for one entity the share of the grant exceeds the threshold, only this entity has to submit the audit report).

Question & Answer 5

Q: Is there an information database for contact details of potential partners existing?

A: For this specific call for proposals, no such database is existing.

Question & Answer 6

Q: The call web-site states that the final date for submission of proposals is 16 October 2015. Is this correct?

A: Indeed, proposals need to be submitted electronically and on paper by 16 October 2015 at the latest. Please refer to section 7 of the call text for the concrete submission formalities.

Question & Answer 7

Q: If our proposal would be awarded, which are the limits for modifications in the budget once the project has started? Are there any reference documents available which are not published at the call website?

A: Please refer to the model grant agreement (multi-beneficiary) available at the call web-site for the information you require. First of all, Articles I.10 and II.22 set out the limitations within (co-) beneficiaries are entitled to carry out budget transfers without these transfers being considered an amendment. If the envisaged budget modification exceeds the afore-mentioned threshold, such modification can be requested through an amendment (see Article II.12). An amendment requires formal approval of the Commission which is based on the justification given by the beneficiary and requires that the modification to the budget is in line with eligibility conditions for expenses (Article II.19).

Question & Answer 8

Q: Chapter 4.2 of the call text (eligibility criteria) states that eligible proposals may not profit from other EU funding. We wanted to double check with the EC that the above mentioned rules do not exclude organisations already benefiting from EU funding to apply to this call for proposals.

A: The financial guide for applicants available with the call documents clarifies this issue:

*Each action may give rise to the award of only one grant, there can be **no duplicate European Union funding of the same expenditure**. The applicant must indicate the sources and amounts of any other funding received or applied for in the same financial year for the same action or for any other action and for routine activities (running costs).*

Question & Answer 9

Q: Which countries other than EU-Member States would be eligible for this call for proposals?

A: Please refer to chapter 4.2 of the call text (eligibility criteria) for the list of eligible countries.

Question & Answer 10

Q: The eligibility criteria listed in the call text states that **lead applicants** must be employers' organisations or associations representing employers' interests established at European level. Could you please clarify?

A: This criterion requires that **lead applicants** are required to be employers' organisations/associations representing the interest of employers **in more than one eligible country** (supranational entities). Entities being member of a transnational network/association but acting at national level may not be considered eligible as **lead applicants**.