



This project is funded
by the European Union

Recovery, Stability and Socio-Economic Development
in Libya - “Baladiyati” - Italian Cooperation Component
T05-EUTF-NOA-LY-13-01 (T05.1849)
CUP H99J21003980006



Contracting Authority:

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

Programme

“Recovery, Stability and Socio-economic Development in Libya”

Baladiyati Phase 2 - Italian Cooperation¹ Component

T05-EUTF-NOA-LY-13-01 (T05.1849)

Funded by the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa – North of Africa Window

Call for Proposals

Guidelines for grant applicants

Reference: 06/EUTFRSSD2/2022

Deadline for submission of concept notes and full applications: 16/11/2022

¹ The term “Italian Cooperation” refers to the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).

NOTICE

This is an open call for proposals, where all documents are submitted together (concept note and full application). As the rules for crisis situations are applicable to this Programme, AICS in accordance with the point 6.5.5 of PRAG, set a shortened deadline in derogation to the minimum terms for submission of the application forms – duly acknowledged by the EU Delegation.

In the first instance, only the concept notes will be evaluated. Thereafter, for the lead applicants who have been pre-selected, the full applications will be evaluated. After the evaluation of the full applications, an eligibility check will be performed for those which have been provisionally selected. Eligibility will be checked on the basis of the supporting documents requested by the contracting authority and the signed 'declaration by the lead applicant' sent together with the full application.



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1. "RECOVERY, STABILITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN LIBYA (RSSD)" PHASE 2 – ITALIAN COOPERATION COMPONENT

1.1 BACKGROUND

National context

Years after the revolution of February 2011, Libya is witnessing a state of deep political conflict, societal divisions, insecurity and economic challenges. The protracted conflict has severely damaged vital infrastructures, disrupted basic social services and critically affected the general income, hence weighing heavy on public finance and the most vulnerable segments of the population. In this scenario, Libya has increasingly become the main country of transit and departure for migrants and refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea towards Europe.

As the decentralization process increases the level of authority of local actors like the municipalities, central government institutions remain key stakeholders and interlocutors of the International Community. Municipalities often collaborate with civil society, the private sector and community leaders, for responding to urgent needs of the local population. Nevertheless, the gap between central and local authorities, Municipalities' limited decision-making autonomy, their weak technical capacities and low financial resources greatly limit their responsiveness to fast-growing demand. Recent assessments reveal a series of serious shortcomings in the capacity of local administrations to deliver basic and social services.

Relevance of the Programme

In a context of strong institutional fragmentation and difficulty in obtaining the necessary resources (human and financial) to deliver basic services and job opportunities, the Programme aims to strengthen the role and skills of Libyan municipalities as fundamental actors in the process of pacification and stabilization of the country. The activities proposed meet national priorities as expressed in the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan and the 2019-20 UN Strategic Framework (UNFS), including the multi-sector short-term response/ capacity building/ sustainable development nexus. The UN Strategic Framework was extended until 2022 and it aims to address the country's development priorities in close complementarity and synergy with the priorities identified in the political and humanitarian sectors. The UNSF identifies several interventions in key sectors for the reconstruction of the country, such as public governance, the labour market and the power sector. Regarding the latter, the UNSF underlines the limitations of the national electricity system in ensuring an adequate supply of electricity to meet the needs of the Libyan population, with repercussions on the provision of basic services and living conditions of the Libyan population.

The RSSD Phase 2 Programme will improve living conditions for the most vulnerable population, including migrants and their host communities, in an inclusive and conflict-sensitive manner by enhancing access to basic and social services and promoting income generating activities in the agro-food sector in 14 municipalities of Southern Libya. Moreover, it will tackle lower economic development, social cohesion and community tensions specifically affecting the area. The Programme will therefore aim at supporting activities that can respond to immediate needs at the local level, while also laying the groundwork for longer-term, more sustainable actions.

Finally, this Programme is conceived as a need-driven flexible facility to address the most pressing requirements to reinforce the resilience of communities most impacted by migration.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE RSSD – PHASE 2 PROGRAMME AND PRIORITY ISSUES

Geographic Scope

The selection of the locations targeted by the RSSD Phase 2 Programme was coordinated with the Libyan Ministry of Local Governance (MoLG) and the European Union based on the following criteria: (i) municipalities largely excluded from donor funding; (ii) municipalities with newly elected municipal councils; (iii) locations presenting a higher economic development potential; (iv) security and accessibility; (v) presence of migrant and IDP communities.

As a result of this process, AICS will target the following 14 Municipalities²:

- Darj and Shwerif in the West;
- Ribyana and Kufra in the South East;
- Brak al Shati, Ubari, Beint Baya, Ghat/Tahala, Al Gorda, Al Ghareifa, Murzuk, Quatrum, Shargya and Sebha in the South West.

Intervention Logic and Priority Issues

In order to generate a more complete and coherent stabilization impact, the Programme will go beyond the service delivery scope, putting an emphasis on local economic development while fostering social cohesion and human security at communal level. The foreseen sectors of the Programme are education, WASH, sustainable energy and agriculture livelihood. It will also touch upon conflict mitigation at community level.

The proposed activities seek to tackle, in an integrated and mutually reinforcing approach, the following priority issues:

- the need to address inadequate access to basic services and infrastructure, notably in the areas of education, WASH, and sustainable energy;
- the need for the creation of decent job opportunities, notably in agriculture/livestock, so as to prevent the young generation from engaging in illegal alternatives while at the same time strengthen household resilience and food security;
- the need to strengthen social cohesion and prevent/mitigate conflicts at communal level so as to create a sustainable environment for development.

Objectives of the Programme

The Programme's overall objective is to contribute to improving the living conditions and resilience of local communities, migrants, IDPs and returnees, with a focus on the most vulnerable within targeted municipalities of Southern Libya. This will be achieved by implementing three interlinked outcomes that aim to:

1. Contribute to improving basic service delivery (notably education, WASH, sustainable energy, as well as facilities for social cohesion at community level);
2. Contribute to creating/enhancing livelihoods opportunities for local communities, including for migrants;
3. Contribute to prevention/mitigation of conflicts, encourage reconciliation and strengthen social cohesion.

² Please note that Ghat Municipality has split in 4 municipalities (Ghat, Al Awinat, Tahala, Al Barket); Algatron has split in 2 municipalities (Algatron and Tejerhi); Darj has split in 3 municipalities (Darj, Awal, Sinawan); Algarefa has split in 3 municipalities (Algarefa, Gragra, Jerma); Bent Baya has split in 3 municipalities (Bent Baya, Wady Alshargy, Al Rqiba); Shargya has split in 2 municipalities (Shargya and Zwila).

The AICS-implemented component of the Programme is expected to have multiple impacts aligned to outcomes 1 and 2.

This Call for Proposals is an integral part of the Italian Cooperation Component of the “Recovery, Stability and Socio-economic Development in Libya” Phase 2. The Programme is implemented by AICS and financed under the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EU Trust Fund). The Programme includes two additional components implemented by UNDP and UNICEF.

1.3 OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES OF THIS CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The **global objective** of this Call for Proposals is to contribute to creating/enhancing livelihoods opportunities in the agro-food sector for Libyan and Non-Libyan communities in Southern Libya.

The **specific objective** is to identify and support income generating activities in the agro-food sector benefiting local communities, migrants, refugees, IDPs and returnees, in Southern Libya

Agricultural sector overview

Libya faces an unprecedented and protracted internal crisis caused by a civil war that affects the lives of millions of people, including local populations and migrants from numerous countries. Due to multiple crises since 2011, livelihoods have been heavily affected, especially in rural areas. Despite the relatively small contribution of agriculture to Libya’s GDP - less than 3 percent in 2011 - and although 75-80% of food requirements are imported from outside the country, the percentage of Libyans engaged in some form of agricultural production remains large, at 22%³. Cereals, fodder crops and some fruits are grown in the relatively small rain-fed area, while the coastal irrigated area is used for growing vegetables (potatoes, onions and tomatoes), fruit (watermelons, oranges, dates, grapes and olives) and cereals (wheat and barley). The average area planted with vegetables in Libya is 69,180 hectares (ha) and the average annual vegetable production is about 1,270,600 tonnes. Most farms are small, ranging from 5 to 20 hectares in size. Only 5% of the territory receives more than 100 millimetres of rain annually. Agricultural land comprised 90% smallholdings of less than 20 ha, 9% medium farms (20–100 ha) and just 1% large farms (over 100 ha). Water shortage is one of the biggest limitations to agricultural production. Libya is one of the driest countries in the world, with limited annual rainfall, high evapotranspiration, and scarce surface-water resources. Non-renewable groundwater provides the bulk of the country’s water needs. Falling water tables from over-irrigation are creating a long-term ecological threat (World Bank, 2011). More than 20% of arable land (470,000 ha) is developed for irrigation, with irrigation potential estimated at 750,000 ha. Its full development would have to rely mainly on the use of fossil water.

Agriculture still represents an important source of income and food in the Fezzan region. The Libyan population owns the majority of land they cultivate, whereas IDPs and migrants generally work on local farms, which in most cases are between 5-10 hectares in size. Some larger farms (above 10 ha) still exist, but they represent a small minority of all farms. The availability of skilled agricultural labour in these farms is quite limited. A vast majority of the agricultural labour force is made up of migrants which are employed as low-skilled labour. Migrant laborers receive on-the-job training from the employers as public training programs specifically designed for migrants are no longer in place. For most migrants, agriculture remains the main if not the sole source of employment. The involvement of migrants in agriculture in Libya is primarily seasonal, with people entering the country between April and November to harvest crops and fruits, including barley, wheat, grapes, dates and olives. In addition to seasonal migrants, there are also migrants who live in Libya throughout the year and that depend exclusively on agriculture⁴. In order of importance, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Mali, Egypt and Senegal are reportedly the home country of most migrant workers in the Mantikas of Ghat, Murzuq, Sebha and Ubari. Migrants are responsible for conducting many activities in crop production, from land preparation and the application of fertilizers and pesticides, to harvesting and selling of agricultural

³ “The Assessment and Improvement of the Value Chains and Added Value of Agricultural Commodities in the South of Libya”, FAO and UNDP, December 2020

⁴ “Agriculture and Livestock Assessment in Kufrah, Sabha & Qatroun”, IOM, Voluntas, 2019

products. The daily average salary of a migrant working in agriculture is between 10 and 40 LYD (equivalent to approximately 2 to 10 USD), for regular farming activities (land preparation, sowing seeds, fertilizer application, livestock rearing, etc.). The highest remuneration comes from olive and date harvesting, which pays up to 100-120 LYD per day. These daily salaries are in line with those received by IDPs. Migrant workers also breed livestock and either work as seasonal casual workers during specific periods of the year or they work throughout the year in the same farm where they are often hosted. They may also be involved in securing the farms and properties. If not hosted by the farms' owners, they live near the working place and they commute on a daily basis. The large majority of migrants do not have access to training opportunities, agricultural land nor the necessary financial means to cultivate own plots or raise animals. IDPs are involved in all stages of the crop cycle, from land preparation and fertilizer and pesticide application, until harvesting and selling of food commodities. Moreover, IDPs are often involved in livestock rearing. IDPs generally work in agricultural activities because they had previous work experience in the sector, or because they consider work in agriculture as being a better opportunity to access food and to get an income at a faster pace compared to other limited job opportunities. Unlike the migrants, IDPs generally have better access to agricultural land because they possess Libyan nationality and can rent or purchase land much more easily, although they lack liquidity to access land and conduct agricultural activities. Therefore, the majority of IDPs work full-time for larger farm owners or as seasonal casual labourers. In addition, IDPs belonging to minority groups who lack personal, tribal or community connection with their place of residence are more vulnerable to discriminations and abuse. IDPs and migrants are generally paid in cash and/or in-kind (i.e., crops harvested); the demand for labour in the agricultural sector remains high, which is the main reason why they continue working in this sector⁵.

Women continue to increase their involvement in agriculture, especially since the crisis of 2014. They mainly work with land preparation and planting operations up to harvesting. They also play a major role in rearing animals, especially goats, sheep and poultry. The absence of both skilled and unskilled labour and the lack of liquidity to pay for labour are the main reasons pushing women to support agricultural activities. Women generally work on family farms, as the poor security situation in the country and local cultural norms do not allow women to work for other private farms.

A large proportion of the population involved in farming in the Fezzan region currently face serious challenges in continuing their operations. Many people were obliged to discontinue agricultural production, including crop and livestock production, because they did not have the means to endure through the crises. According to a recent study implemented by WFP in the Fezzan region⁶, the main obstacles to continuing farming operations are: 1) poor security situation affecting the overall agricultural value-chain, from production, to sales, storage and processing; 2) scarcity of water and fuel, coupled with an irregular electricity supply and frequent power outages; 3) lack of or high prices of agricultural inputs (i.e. seeds, fertilizers and pesticides); 4) lack of income available to purchase required agricultural inputs, equipment and machinery; 5) difficulties in accessing markets and shops due to the lack of liquidity and transportation constraints; 6) absence of extension services and inoperability of farmer's associations; and 7) inconsistent exchange rate between the United States Dollar (USD) and the Libyan Dinar (LYD), due to the depreciation of the national currency and lack of bank liquidity for accessing loans and financial services.

The ongoing conflict disrupted Libyan agri-food value chains, which were already underdeveloped prior to 2011, and COVID-19 has exacerbated this situation. The pandemic has highlighted the structural problems facing food chains. Economic challenges in Libya have further complicated supply and demand fundamentals, creating additional challenges. Choke points suggest evidence of disruption in the country's food value chains (including in the south) and growing food insecurity. Moreover, the cash crisis has forced many households to adjust their consumption by reducing food purchases.

Farmers are unable to sell their crops to the markets, especially distant national markets in the north of the country, which has created high surpluses and low prices at the farm level. At the same time, food shortages and prices increased in destination and consumption markets. Moreover, agriculture depends on foreign

⁵ "Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods Needs Assessment – Libya", Middle East Consulting Solutions, FAO, 2017

⁶ "Libya agriculture and livelihood needs assessment report – a study of the Fezzan region", WFP, March 2020

workers from neighbouring countries who are now less willing to come to Libya during the pandemic. Inputs such as fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides depend on imports and their prices have increased by between 20 and 50%⁷. Agriculture extension services and farmer assistance have also been negatively affected and are lacking. These multiple problems and hardships may lead to some farmers abandoning agriculture and agribusiness due to the continued hardship from several years of ongoing conflict coupled with the hardship of the pandemic. Restrictions on mobility vary by region and municipality. In general, curfews and quarantines have impacted most of Libya, albeit slightly less so in the south. At the same time, the illicit economy has succeeded in flourishing, due to limited income alternatives and geography conducive to subversive movements with the black market and smuggling (of people, oil, weapons, drugs, gold, and subsidized goods such as fuel) becoming essential in terms of providing livelihood opportunities at local level. With its current configuration and performance levels, the agricultural sector cannot and will not satisfy rising demand for food in the country or contribute to the desired overall economic development. Agribusiness development will require building capacity for innovation. These two aspects are interrelated: short and long-term individual capacity-building, including skills development (language, communication and facilitating participatory and multi-stakeholder approaches), as well as building knowledge on specific priority topics (e.g., water, horticulture, post-harvest processing and marketing). Current capacity-building can be correctly implemented through higher education programmes, as well as short courses and capacity-building programmes, training of trainers' programmes and field schools for farmers, among other means. Organizational capacity-building, such as adequate human resource development strategies and providing incentives and opportunities for career development, is paramount. In addition to building individual and organizational capacity, institutional capacity also needs to be developed. This can be achieved by developing effective interaction between different categories of actors in the innovation system through multi-stakeholder platforms like public-private research partnerships, international collaboration (especially in education, involving universities and vocational training institutes, and with the private sector, e.g., joint ventures on knowledge-rich investments).

Priorities of this call for proposals ⁸

- Rehabilitate/maintain collective infrastructure, including the water networks, would allow producers to sell their commodities in more markets, boosting profits and turnover. Water shortages are considered the main challenge for the agricultural sector. Markets in the region need improved infrastructure for better handling of commodities, especially perishable food, such as storage, packing, processing and transport facilities;
- Improve access to crop and animal extension services, as well as good quality agricultural and livestock inputs (seeds, fertilizers, feed, animal vaccines etc.), equipment and machines provided at a reduced cost and/or free of charge are among the main current needs for agriculture production. The shortage of good quality inputs, tools and materials necessary for agriculture is further aggravated by their steady increase in prices, the absence of loans and credits from national financial institutions, and the lack of extension services.
- Enhance technical skills of farmers and their employees (especially migrants) will increase production quality and productivity, reduce loss and waste and help protect crops, increase profits, all of which will feed into the development of the agricultural sector and boost stability and livelihoods in the region. Relevant topics for training could include greenhouse cultivation and other modern farming techniques related to planting, irrigation, tree pruning, fruit reaping, disease and pest control and the correct and safe use of pesticides. Most farmers have not engaged in processing and other value-added activities. Post-harvest handling and other value-added practices and treatments, such as packing, packaging, cold chain (precooling, refrigerated transport and storage) are badly needed, as well as capacity-building and training on these handling techniques and practices.

⁷ "Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods Needs Assessment – Libya", Middle East Consulting Solutions, FAO, 2017

⁸ "Libya agriculture and livelihood needs assessment report – a study of the Fezzan region", WFP, March 2020

- Engage young people in agricultural value-added income generating activities would reduce unemployment, improve household livelihoods and reduce instability. Young people lack the motivation and interest to engage in agricultural activities in the region, especially due to its focus on physical labour. Improving and modernizing the agricultural sector requires administrative planning, strengthened technical skills, with less emphasis on physical labour. Engaging young people and migrants in the food and agriculture sector, especially on small value-added projects related to food, would bridge generational and educational gaps. Agricultural support programmes must ensure social cohesion and adequately take into consideration community level protection concerns.
- Provide support to agricultural associations/cooperatives/CSOs or agribusiness service centers⁹ (preferably with a separate body for women, due to social and cultural issues in the region) would ensure their sustainability and empower their stakeholders, especially small-scale farmers. This would greatly help the sector in many ways, building capacity for collective bargaining and the ability to purchase inputs, developing technical skills and knowledge, facilitate access to loans and credits, providing access to infrastructure and equipment, markets and marketing information and systems. Supply of shared machinery and equipment for a group of small farmers or associations/cooperatives/CSOs that lease them out to the farmers could be more suitable than providing them to farmers directly, as they do not have the skills to maintain them.
- Provide training and capacity-building for local authorities, community-based associations and organizations, farmers and other value chain and value-added actors, especially women, is crucial. Training of trainers programmes, workshops and other capacity-building programmes are badly needed on topics including (1) proper cultural practices for better cultivation and higher productivity; (2) proper post harvest handling, processing and other value-added practices, such as cold chain, packing, packaging, quality standards, transport, and processing; (3) proper marketing infrastructure and marketing systems and access to distant (national and export) markets; and (4) export regulations and promotion, especially in the areas of quality and safety standards and enforcement. Awareness-raising programmes covering different topics, such as the potential of the local agriculture sector, reducing food loss and waste among farmers (especially among value chain actors and households) and increasing value-added practices (especially proper post-harvest handling techniques and treatments, food safety, quality and nutritional standards, and pesticide use and precautions) would be highly beneficial in the region.

1.4 FINANCIAL ALLOCATION PROVIDED BY THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

The overall indicative amount made available under this call for proposals is **EUR 1,400,000**. The contracting authority reserves the right not to award all available funds.

Size of grants

Any grant requested under this Call for Proposals must not exceed the below maximum amount:

- minimum amount: EUR 1,200,000
- maximum amount: EUR 1,400,000

Any grant requested under this Call for Proposals must cover **100%** of the total eligible costs of the action.

⁹ Agricultural associations used to be the main support actors for farmers, providing them with training, access to machinery and equipment and subsidized seeds. However, almost all the associations and cooperatives are no longer active in the region and would need to be reactivated.

2. RULES FOR THIS CALL FOR PROPOSALS

These guidelines set out the rules for the submission, selection and implementation of the actions financed under this call, in conformity with the practical guide, which is applicable to the present call (available on the internet at this address <https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/ePRAG>).¹⁰

2.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

There are three sets of eligibility criteria, relating to:

(1) the actors (2.1.1.):

- the ‘**lead applicant**’, i.e., the entity submitting the application form;
- if any, its **co-applicant(s)** (where it is not specified otherwise the lead applicant and its co-applicant(s) are hereinafter jointly referred as ‘applicant(s)’);
- and, if any, **affiliated entity(ies)** to the lead applicant and/or to a co-applicant(s);

(2) the actions (2.1.3.):

- actions for which a grant may be awarded;

(3) the costs (2.1.4.):

- types of cost that may be taken into account in setting the amount of the grant.

2.1.1 Eligibility of applicants (i.e., lead applicant and co-applicant(s))

Lead applicant

(1) In order to be eligible for a grant, the lead applicant must:

- be a legal person **and**
- be non-profit-making **and**
- be a **non-governmental** organisation **and**
- be established in¹¹ a Member State of the European Union or in countries eligible under EDF-ENI- and DCI- funded programmes (see PRAG Annex a2a for the list of eligible countries)¹² **and**

¹⁰ Note that a lead applicant (i.e., a coordinator) whose pillars have been positively assessed by the European Commission and who is awarded a grant will not sign the standard grant contract published with these guidelines, but a contribution agreement based on the contribution agreement template. All references in these guidelines and other documents related to this call to the standard grant contract shall in this case be understood as referring to the relevant provisions of the contribution agreement template.

¹¹ To be determined on the basis of the organisation’s statutes, which should demonstrate that it has been established by an instrument governed by the national law of the country concerned and that its head office is located in an eligible country. In this respect, any legal entity whose statutes have been established in another country cannot be considered an eligible local organisation, even if the statutes are registered locally or a ‘Memorandum of Understanding’ has been concluded.

¹² With regard to Israeli entities, please follow Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards (OJ C 205, 19.7.2013, p. 9).

For UK applicants: Please be aware that following the entry into force of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement¹³ 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 and to goods originating from an eligible country, as defined under Regulation (EU) No 236/2014¹⁴ and Annex IV of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement¹⁵, are to be understood as including natural or legal persons residing or established in, and to goods originating from, the United Kingdom¹⁶. Those persons and goods are therefore eligible under this call.

- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary **and**
- be registered and/or authorized to implement activities in Libya or in the process of being registered/authorized¹⁷.

(2) Potential applicants may not participate in calls for proposals or be awarded grants if they are in any of the situations listed in Section 2.6.10.1 of the practical guide;

Lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entities and, in case of legal entities, persons who have powers of representation, decision-making or control over the lead applicant, the co-applicants and the affiliated entities are informed that, should they be in one of the situations of early detection or exclusion according to Section 2.6.10.1 of the practical guide, personal details (name, given name if natural person, address, legal form and name and given name of the persons with powers of representation, decision-making or control, if legal person) may be registered in the early detection and exclusion system, and communicated to the persons and entities concerned in relation to the award or the execution of a grant contract. In this respect, provisionally selected lead applicants, co-applicants and affiliated entities or those placed in the reserve list are obliged to declare that they are not in one of the exclusion situations through a signed declaration on honour (PRAG Annex A14). For grants of EUR 15 000 or less, no declaration on honour is required. See Section 2.4.

In Part B Section 8 of the grant application form ('declaration(s) by the lead applicant'), the lead applicant must declare that the lead applicant himself, the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies) are not in any of these situations.

The lead applicant may act individually or with co-applicant(s).

If awarded the grant contract, the lead applicant will become the beneficiary identified as the coordinator in **Annex G** (special conditions). The coordinator is the sole interlocutor of the contracting authority. It represents and acts on behalf of any other co-beneficiary (if any) and coordinate the design and implementation of the action.

¹³ Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community.

¹⁴ Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action.

¹⁵ Annex IV to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, as revised by Decision 1/2014 of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers (OJ L196/40, 3.7.2014).

¹⁶ including the Overseas Countries and Territories having special relations with the United Kingdom, as laid down in Part Four and Annex II of the TFEU].

¹⁷ The certificate of registration valid on the date of submission of the proposal must be attached as supporting document of the lead applicant and the same apply for any co-applicant and/or affiliated entity. In the case of a registration process that has commenced and has not yet been completed, the above-mentioned entities must submit evidence of the commencement of the procedure prior to this date (e.g., delivery of the dossier).

Co-applicant(s)

Co-applicants participate in designing and implementing the action, and the costs they incur are eligible in the same way as those incurred by the lead applicant.

Co-applicants must satisfy the eligibility criteria as applicable to the lead applicant himself.

Co-applicants must sign the mandate in Part B Section 4 of the grant application form.

If awarded the grant contract, the co-applicant(s) (if any) will become beneficiary(ies) in the action (together with the coordinator).

- (3) In addition, please note that contracts cannot be awarded to or signed with applicants included in the lists of EU restrictive measures (see Section 2.4. of the PRAG).

2.1.2 Affiliated entities

The lead applicant and its co-applicant(s) may act with affiliated entity(ies).

Only the following entities may be considered as affiliated entities to the lead applicant and/or to co-applicant(s):

Only entities having a structural link with the applicants (i.e., the lead applicant or a co-applicant), in particular a legal or capital link.

This structural link encompasses mainly two notions:

- (i) Control, as defined in Directive 2013/34/EU on the annual financial statements, consolidated financial statements and related reports of certain types of undertakings:

Entities affiliated to an applicant may hence be:

- Entities directly or indirectly controlled by the applicant (daughter companies or first-tier subsidiaries). They may also be entities controlled by an entity controlled by the applicant (granddaughter companies or second-tier subsidiaries) and the same applies to further tiers of control;
 - Entities directly or indirectly controlling the applicant (parent companies). Likewise, they may be entities controlling an entity controlling the applicant;
 - Entities under the same direct or indirect control as the applicant (sister companies).
- (ii) Membership, i.e. the applicant is legally defined as a e.g. network, federation, association in which the proposed affiliated entities also participate or the applicant participates in the same entity (e.g. network, federation, association,...) as the proposed affiliated entities.

The structural link shall, as a general rule, be neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation. This means that the link would exist independently of the award of the grant; it should exist before the call for proposals and remain valid after the end of the action.

By way of exception, an entity may be considered as affiliated to an applicant even if it has a structural link specifically established for the sole purpose of the implementation of the action in the case of so-called 'sole applicants' or 'sole beneficiaries'. A sole applicant or a sole beneficiary is a legal entity formed by several entities (a group of entities) which together comply with the criteria for being awarded the grant. For example, an association is formed by its members.

What is not an affiliated entity?

The following are not considered entities affiliated to an applicant:

- Entities that have entered into a (procurement) contract or subcontract with an applicant, act as concessionaires or delegates for public services for an applicant,
- Entities that receive financial support from the applicant,
- Entities that cooperate on a regular basis with an applicant on the basis of a memorandum of understanding or share some assets,
- Entities that have signed a consortium agreement under the grant contract (unless this consortium agreement leads to the creation of a 'sole applicant' as described above).

How to verify the existence of the required link with an applicant?

The affiliation resulting from control may in particular be proved on the basis of the consolidated accounts of the group of entities the applicant and its proposed affiliates belong to.

The affiliation resulting from membership may in particular be proved on the basis of the statutes or equivalent act establishing the entity (network, federation, association) which the applicant constitutes or in which the applicant participates.

If the applicants are awarded a grant contract, their affiliated entity(ies) will not become beneficiary(ies) of the action and signatory(ies) of the grant contract. However, they will participate in the design and in the implementation of the action and the costs they incur (including those incurred for implementation contracts and financial support to third parties and subcontractors) may be accepted as eligible costs, provided they comply with all the relevant rules already applicable to the beneficiary(ies) under the grant contract.

Affiliated entity(ies) must satisfy the same eligibility criteria as the lead applicant and the co-applicant(s). They must sign the affiliated entity(ies) statement in Part B Section 5 of the grant application form.

2.1.3 Associates and contractors

The following entities are not applicants nor affiliated entities and do not have to sign the 'mandate for co-applicant(s)' or 'affiliated entities' statement:

- Associates

Other organisations or individuals may be involved in the action. Such associates play a real role in the action but may not receive funding from the grant, with the exception of per diem or travel costs. Associates do not have to meet the eligibility criteria referred to in Section 2.1.1. Associates must be mentioned in Part B Section 6 — 'Associates participating in the action' — of the grant application form.

- Contractors

The beneficiaries and their affiliated entities are permitted to award contracts. Associates or affiliated entity(ies) cannot be also contractors in the project. Contractors are subject to the procurement rules set out in Annex IV to the standard grant contract.

2.1.4 Eligible actions: actions for which an application may be made

Definition:

An action is composed of a set of activities.

Duration

The initial planned duration of an action may not be less than **10** months and may not exceed **12** months.

Sectors or themes

Agriculture and livelihood

Location

Actions must take place in the following municipalities:

<i>Geographic Area</i>	<i>Municipality</i>
<i>South West</i>	Murzuk
<i>South West</i>	Sebha
<i>South West</i>	Ubari
<i>South East</i>	Ribyana

Types of action

Actions proposed by applicants must meet the needs and priorities identified in this Call for Proposals.

The following types of action are ineligible:

- actions concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences and congresses;
- actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses.

TYPES OF ACTIVITY

The eligible activities must be in line with the specific objective and priorities of this Call for Proposals. An **indicative** and **non-exhaustive** list of possible activities is provided below:

- a. Conduct rapid assessments in the target areas in order to identify stakeholders and beneficiaries (i.e., local authorities, MSMEs, farmers, farmers associations/cooperatives and Civil Society Organizations etc.), as well as prior needs in the agro-food sector;
- b. Provide good quality agricultural and livestock inputs (i.e., certified seeds, high quality fertilizers, organic pesticides, fodder, feed, animal vaccines etc.), equipment and machines (i.e., tractors and harvesting equipment, cooling equipment for transport etc.) to local authorities, farmers, local associations/cooperatives/CSOs and agri-business service centers;
- c. Rehabilitate/maintain collective networks and groundwater wells as well as provide equipment (i.e., solar water pumps, generators etc.) for land irrigation;
- d. Construct/rehabilitate/maintain water reservoirs to support livestock production;
- e. Establish/upgrade key market infrastructure for better processing and handling of commodities, especially perishable food (i.e., food cold storage, milling plant, slaughterhouses, processing, packaging and storing facilities etc.);

- f. Conduct trainings on agriculture (i.e., land use, greenhouse cultivation and other modern farming techniques related to planting, irrigation, tree pruning, fruit reaping, crop diversification, pest and disease control, pesticide related food-poisoning and water-saving practices etc.);
- g. Conduct trainings on livestock production (i.e., disease prevention, composting, advanced rearing practices and livestock diversification etc.);
- h. Conduct training of trainers programmes on topics including (1) proper cultural practices for better cultivation and higher productivity; (2) proper post harvest handling, processing and other value-added practices, such as cold chain, packing, packaging, quality standards, transport, and processing; (3) environmental issues (i.e., waste recycling, renewable energy etc.); (4) proper marketing strategies (i.e., commercialization, sale and post-sale, market access - national and international – etc.); and (5) export regulations, especially in the areas of quality and safety standards and enforcement;
- i. Launch awareness campaigns on different topics, such as reducing food loss and waste among farmers (especially among value chain actors and households), increasing value-added practices (especially proper post-harvest handling techniques and treatments, food safety, quality and nutritional standards, and pesticide use and precautions) and adapting to climate change-related effects on farming;
- j. Conduct rapid assessments and/or market analysis in the target areas in order to identify skills development needs and beneficiaries (i.e., youths, women, vulnerable groups from Libyan and non-Libyan communities etc.) of vocational training activities in the agro-food sector;
- k. Provide vocational trainings, technical assistance as well as in-kind support to create/enhance alternative livelihood activities (i.e., beekeeping, nurseries, flower cultivation etc.), economic activities which consider environmental issues (i.e., waste recycling, renewable energy etc.) and post-harvest services (i.e., packing, packaging and processing);
- l. Create or reinforce matching platforms/channels between the beneficiaries of vocational/skills trainings and private sector with employment opportunities in the agro-food sector;
- m. Provide technical assistance and coaching on sales, product marketing and commercialization to MSMEs and entrepreneurs;

Given the volatile environment prevailing in Libya, flexible planning and adaptive management are key to delivering the expected results and ensure the effectiveness of the action. Therefore, during the contracting or implementation phases, AICS (Contracting Authority) reserves the right to negotiate with the selected beneficiary minor re-apportioning of activities in order to (i) optimize thematic and geographic coverage and avoid any possible overlaps/gaps, and (ii) obtain the best value-for-money. AICS will timely publicize any possible change according to the PRAG stipulations and process contract amendments as required. Moreover, AICS will duly notify the relevant governing bodies of the overall Programme.

During the need assessment phase requested to Applicants in order to respond to this Call for Proposals, it is important to approach local authorities introducing the programmatic framework within which the activities will be implemented, stressing the roles of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (implementing agency) and the European Union (funding institution).

Value-adding Principles

The applicants will need to make sure that their methodology explicitly states how the below value-adding principles will be embedded in their proposals:

Conflict Sensitivity Approach. Given the challenges to operate in the current context, a conflict sensitivity and do no harm approach is a specific requirement of this Programme. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate how conflict sensitivity will be streamlined throughout their actions over the project period as appropriate, in particular identifying, monitoring and reporting conflict sensitivity risks and opportunities as part of context

analysis and risk management – possibly, integrating communication between local communities and authorities/service providers. The partners implementing this action will be expected to actively coordinate on conflict sensitivity initiatives, adhere to Conflict Sensitive Assistance (CSA) Principles for Libya and ensure that their staff have adequate knowledge and capacity on conflict sensitivity and communication - including dedicated focal persons.

Contextualized approach. The applications should clearly indicate the results of local stakeholder consultations, the availability of local partners, suppliers and service providers, the first identification and selection of target beneficiaries and the approach for the activities to be conducted. All proposed actions should address conflict-related risk management. Applications should also include immediate actions to be undertaken upon the approval of the application, for which there is no need for further detailed assessment and study.

Vulnerable groups. The applications should explain how the vulnerable groups (i.e., youths and women from the local communities, migrants, refugees, IDPs and returnees) have been involved in the identification of the proposed interventions and how their needs will be addressed. In particular, the proposed actions should directly involve, in a conflict-sensitive way and when the local context allows it, the migrant communities and target them for specific activities.

Sustainability. All proposed actions should be designed to achieve long-lasting changes. Actions might include measures to strengthen: (i) fair and inclusive access to community infrastructure/services; (ii) a sense of community ownership; and, (iii) mechanisms for a community to prioritize its own needs. Applicants should give a clear description of how sustainability will be promoted.

Complementarity: close coordination with other programmes and projects. The efficiency and effectiveness of the actions are affected by the cooperation with programmes already implemented, ongoing or in the pipeline in the selected municipalities. Finding complementarities implies continued information sharing with the relevant stakeholders. Applicants should coordinate with other stakeholders and capture relevant challenges, good practices and lessons learned in their reporting.

National Policy frameworks. The proposed actions should demonstrate awareness of - and synergy with - existing and emerging national policy frameworks, e.g., technical standards adopted by the relevant Line Ministries or National Authorities and coordination with international agencies.

Financial support to third parties¹⁸

Applicants may not propose financial support to third parties.

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Results chain, relevant indicators and targets must be clearly identified and indicated by the applicants in the ANNEX C – *Logical framework*; indicators shall be aligned as much as possible with the EUTF Results Framework: [eutf methodological notes - short - 21 september 2020 0.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#).

The reporting templates and timeline shall be consistent with AICS reporting system as well as with the overall Programme Logical Framework approved by EUTF. In case of modifications in the overall Programme Logical Framework, adjustments in the logframes of the beneficiary(ies) may be requested by AICS.

Monitoring of activities will be regularly guaranteed by AICS through ad hoc meetings with the beneficiary(ies), monitoring missions in the areas of intervention and revision of the progress reports (narrative and financial) to be submitted on a monthly and quarterly basis through the reporting templates provided by AICS.

¹⁸ These third parties are neither affiliated entity(ies) nor associates nor contractors.

In addition, AICS monitoring system will be supported by a qualified Third-Party Monitoring (TPM) service provider, which will conduct regular and post-completion site visits and key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with relevant stakeholders.

Monitoring and Evaluation exercises will be also conducted by the EU Delegation to Libya for the whole Programme through Third Party Monitoring (TPM) systems and Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) missions.

The beneficiary(ies) must facilitate the process and contribute to an effective and successful monitoring and evaluation of the action by providing documents and assistance on the field. The beneficiary(ies) will be also required to contribute to the identification of best practices and lessons learnt throughout the monitoring/evaluation process, sharing know-how and experience.

Communication and visibility

The applicants must ensure adequate information and promotion of the action, highlighting the role of the European Union as the funding institution and that of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) as the implementing agency in all internal and external communications, including all information and documentation materials and any other product for external use developed and disseminated during the project lifespan.

As far as possible, actions must incorporate information and communication activities designed to raise the awareness of specific or general audiences on the Programme and the EU and AICS support for the action in the country or region concerned, as well as the results and the impact of this support.

Applicants must comply with the objectives and priorities and guarantee the visibility of the EU financing (see the Requirements for Visibility Communication for EU external actions specified and published by the European Commission at https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/communication-visibility-requirements-2018_en.pdf) and must contribute proactively to fulfil the communication requirements and duties stemming from the Joint Communications Initiative designed by AICS, UNDP and UNICEF and carried out by the three implementing agencies under the AICS lead.

The Application shall include a section about communications & visibility, where applicants present a list of specific communication activities and related resources – as per below AICS requirements. A dedicated focal point for communications needs to be timely identified: he/she will liaise with the AICS PMU Communications Officer to align on communication objectives, target groups, key messaging, and appropriate visibility channels. Applicants are required to provide on a bi-monthly basis:

1. minimum n.1 human interest story including quotes from beneficiaries;
2. minimum n.1 short video of max 2 minutes (raw footage);
3. minimum n.3 photos in high resolution about activities and operations carried out on the ground before, during and after project implementation (preliminary operations, implementation and delivery).

The above-mentioned package will be submitted to and revised by the AICS PMU Communications Officer. Given the volatile situation on the ground, technical details and timeframe for the delivery of the communication items can be revised in consultation with the contracting authority. Additional communication items can be requested by the contracting authority on an ad-hoc basis.

Number of applications and grants per applicants / affiliated entities

The lead applicant may not submit more than 1 application under this Call for Proposals.

The lead applicant may not be a co-applicant or an affiliated entity in another application at the same time.

A co-applicant/affiliated entity may not be the co-applicant or affiliated entity in more than 1 application under this Call for Proposals.

2.1.5 Eligibility of costs: costs that can be included

Reimbursement of eligible costs that may be based on any or a combination of the following forms:

- (i) actual costs incurred by the beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies);
- (ii) one or more simplified cost options (see below).

Only 'eligible costs' can be covered by a grant. The categories of costs that are eligible and non-eligible are indicated below. The budget is both a cost estimate and an overall ceiling for 'eligible costs'.

Simplified cost options (SCOs) may take the form of:

- **unit costs:** covering all or certain specific categories of eligible costs which are clearly identified in advance by reference to an amount per unit.
- **lump sums:** covering in global terms all or certain specific categories of eligible costs which are clearly identified in advance.
- **flat-rate financing:** covering specific categories of eligible costs which are clearly identified in advance by applying a percentage fixed ex ante. This form is not applicable to output or result based SCOs.

Simplified costs options which can be proposed are the following:

"Output or result based SCOs": they include costs linked to outputs, results, activities, deliverables in the framework of a specific project (for example the determination of a lump sum for the organization of a conference, or for the realisation of a determined output/activity). Where possible and appropriate, lump sums or unit costs shall be determined in such a way to allow their payment upon achievement of concrete outputs and/or results. This type of SCO can be proposed by the beneficiary (no threshold is applicable) at proposal's stage (Grant application form – Full application). In case the evaluation committee and the contracting authority are not satisfied with the quality of the justification provided, reimbursement on the basis of actually incurred costs is always possible.

Please refer to Annex K for the details of the procedure to be followed depending on the type and amount of the costs to be declared as SCO.

Applicants proposing this form of reimbursement, must clearly indicate in worksheet no.1 of Annex B, each heading/item of eligible costs concerned by this type of financing, i.e. add the reference in capital letters to 'UNIT COST', 'LUMPSUM' in the Unit column (see example in Annex K).

Additionally in Annex B, in the second column of worksheet no.2, 'Justification of the estimated costs' per each of the corresponding budget item or heading applicants must:

- describe the information and methods used to establish the amounts of unit costs and/or lump sums, to which costs they refer, etc for output or result based SCO;
- clearly explain the formulas for calculation of the final eligible amount for output or result based SCO.

Where SCOs are proposed the evaluation committee and the contracting authority decide whether to accept the proposed amounts or rates on the basis of the provisional budget submitted by the applicants, by analysing factual data of grants carried out by the applicants or of similar actions. In case the evaluation committee and the contracting authority are not satisfied with the quality of the justification provided reimbursement on the basis of actually incurred costs is always possible.

No threshold is set ex-ante for the total amount of financing that can be authorised by the contracting authority on the basis of simplified cost options.

Recommendations to award a grant are always subject to the condition that the checks preceding the signing of the grant contract do not reveal problems requiring changes to the budget (such as arithmetical errors, inaccuracies, unrealistic costs and ineligible costs). The checks may give rise to requests for clarification and may lead the contracting authority to impose modifications or reductions to address such mistakes or inaccuracies. It is not possible to increase the grant or the percentage of EU co-financing as a result of these corrections.

It is therefore in the applicants' interest to provide a **realistic and cost-effective budget**.

The grant may take the form of a single lump-sum covering the entire eligible costs of an action or a work programme.

Single lump sums may be determined on the basis of the estimated budget, which should comply with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Compliance with these principles shall be verified ex ante at the time of evaluation of the grant application.

When authorising single lump sums the authorising officer responsible shall comply with the conditions applicable to output or result based SCOs.

When using this form of financing, the description of the action shall include detailed information on the essential conditions triggering the payment, including, where applicable, the achievement of outputs and/or results.

Eligible direct costs

To be eligible under this call for proposals, costs must comply with the provisions of Article 14 of the general conditions to the standard grant contract (see Annex G of the guidelines).

The applicants (and where applicable their affiliated entities) agree that the expenditure verification(s) referred to in Article 15.7 of the general conditions to the standard grant contract (see Annex G of the guidelines) will be carried out by an external body authorised by the contracting authority.

Contingency reserve

The budget may include a contingency reserve not exceeding 5 % of the estimated direct eligible costs. It can only be used with the **prior written authorisation** of the contracting authority.

Eligible indirect costs

The indirect costs incurred in carrying out the action may be eligible for flat rate funding, but the total must not exceed 7% of the estimated total eligible direct costs. Indirect costs are eligible provided that they do not include costs assigned to another budget heading in the standard grant contract. The lead applicant may be asked to justify the percentage requested before the grant contract is signed. However, once the flat rate has been fixed in the special conditions of the grant contract, no supporting documents need to be provided.

If any of the applicants or affiliated entity(ies) is in receipt of an operating grant financed by the EU, it may not claim indirect costs on its incurred costs within the proposed budget for the action.

Contributions in kind

Contributions in kind mean the provision of goods or services to beneficiaries or affiliated entities free of charge by a third party. As contributions in kind do not involve any expenditure for beneficiaries or affiliated entities, they are not eligible costs (except for personnel costs for the work carried out by volunteers under an action or an operating grant if so authorised).

Contributions in kind may not be treated as co-financing.

However, if the description of the action as proposed includes contributions in kind, the contributions have to be made.

Other co-financing shall be based on estimates provided by the applicant.

Ineligible costs

The following costs are not eligible:

- debts and debt service charges (interest);
- provisions for losses or potential future liabilities;
- costs declared by the beneficiary(ies) and financed by another action or work programme receiving a European Union (including through EDF) grant;
- purchases of land or buildings, except where necessary for the direct implementation of the action, in which case ownership must be transferred in accordance with Article 7.5 of the general conditions of the standard grant contract, at the latest at the end of the action;
- currency exchange losses;
- in kind contributions (except for volunteers' work);
- bonuses included in costs of staff;
- negative interest charged by banks or other financial institutions;
- credit to third parties;
- salary costs of the personnel of national administrations.

2.1.6 Ethics clauses and Code of Conduct

a) Absence of conflict of interest

The applicant must not be affected by any conflict of interest and must have no equivalent relation in that respect with other applicants or parties involved in the actions. Any attempt by an applicant to obtain confidential information, enter into unlawful agreements with competitors or influence the evaluation committee or the contracting authority during the process of examining, clarifying, evaluating and comparing applications will lead to the rejection of its application and may result in administrative penalties according to the Financial Regulation in force.

b) Respect for human rights as well as environmental legislation and core labour standards

The applicant and its staff must comply with human rights. In particular, and in accordance with the applicable act, applicants who have been awarded contracts must comply with the environmental legislation including multilateral environmental agreements, and with the core labour standards as applicable and as defined in the relevant International Labour Organisation conventions (such as the

conventions on freedom of association and collective bargaining; elimination of forced and compulsory labour; abolition of child labour).

Zero tolerance for sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment

The European Commission applies a policy of 'zero tolerance' in relation to all wrongful conduct which has an impact on the professional credibility of the applicant.

Physical abuse or punishment, or threats of physical abuse, sexual abuse or exploitation, harassment and verbal abuse, as well as other forms of intimidation shall be prohibited.

Applicants (and affiliated entities) other than (i) natural persons, (ii) pillar-assessed entities and (iii) governments and other public bodies, whose application has been provisionally selected or placed in a reserve list shall assess their internal policy against sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEA-H) through a self-evaluation questionnaire (Annex L). For grants of EUR 60 000 or less no self-evaluation is required. Such self-evaluation questionnaire is not part of the evaluation of the full application by the contracting authority but is an administrative requirement. See Section 2.5.6 of the PRAG.

c) Anti-corruption and anti-bribery

The applicant shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations and codes relating to anti-bribery and anti-corruption. The contracting authority reserves the right to suspend or cancel project financing if corrupt practices of any kind are discovered at any stage of the award process or during the execution of a contract and if the contracting authority fails to take all appropriate measures to remedy the situation. For the purposes of this provision, 'corrupt practices' are the offer of a bribe, gift, gratuity or commission to any person as an inducement or reward for performing or refraining from any act relating to the award of a contract or execution of a contract already concluded with the contracting authority.

d) Unusual commercial expenses

Applications will be rejected or contracts terminated if it emerges that the award or execution of a contract has given rise to unusual commercial expenses. Such unusual commercial expenses are commissions not mentioned in the main contract or not stemming from a properly concluded contract referring to the main contract, commissions not paid in return for any actual and legitimate service, commissions remitted to a tax haven, commissions paid to a payee who is not clearly identified or commissions paid to a company which has every appearance of being a front company.

Grant beneficiaries found to have paid unusual commercial expenses on projects funded by the European Union are liable, depending on the seriousness of the facts observed, to have their contracts terminated or to be permanently excluded from receiving EU/EDF funds.

e) Breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud

The contracting authority reserves the right to suspend or cancel the procedure, where the award procedure proves to have been subject to breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud. If breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud are discovered after the award of the contract, the contracting authority may refrain from concluding the contract.

2.2 HOW TO APPLY AND THE PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW

2.2.1 Full Application Forms

Applications must be submitted in accordance with the instructions on the concept note and the full applications in the grant application form annexed to these guidelines (Annex A). Lead applicants should then keep strictly to the format of the grant application form and fill in the paragraphs and pages in order.

Applicants must apply in English.

Please complete the full application form carefully and as clearly as possible so that it can be assessed properly.

Any error or major discrepancy related to the points listed in the instructions on the concept note or any major inconsistency in the application (e.g., if the amounts in the budget worksheets are inconsistent) may lead to the rejection of the application.

Clarifications will only be requested when the information provided is unclear and thus prevents the contracting authority from conducting an objective assessment.

Please note that only the grant application form and the published annexes which have to be filled in (budget, logical framework) will be evaluated. It is therefore of utmost importance that these documents contain ALL the relevant information concerning the action.

With the application the lead applicant also has to submit completed PADOR registration form (Annex F) for the lead applicant, each co-applicants (if any) and each affiliated entities (if any).

Please note that the following documents should be submitted together with the PADOR registration form and the application form:

1. The statutes or articles of association of the lead applicant, (if any) of each co-applicant and (if any) of each affiliated entity. Where the contracting authority has recognised the lead applicant's, or the co-applicant(s)'s, or their affiliated entity(ies)'s eligibility for another call for proposals under the same budget line within 2 years before the deadline for receipt of applications, it should be submitted, instead of the statutes or articles of association, a copy of the document proving their eligibility in a former call (e.g. a copy of the special conditions of a grant contract received during the reference period), unless a change in legal status has occurred in the meantime. This obligation does not apply to international organisations which have signed a framework agreement with the European Commission.
2. Legal entity form (see Annex D of these guidelines) duly completed and signed by each of the applicants (i.e., by the lead applicant and by each co-applicant, if any), accompanied by the justifying documents requested there. If the applicants have already signed a contract with the contracting authority, instead of the legal entity sheet and supporting documents, the legal entity number may be provided, unless a change in legal status occurred in the meantime.
3. A financial identification form of the lead applicant (not from co-applicant(s)) conforming to the model attached as Annex E of these guidelines, certified by the bank to which the payments will be made. This bank should be located in the country where the lead applicant is established. If the lead applicant has already submitted a financial identification form in the past for a contract where the European Commission was in charge of the payments and intends to use the same bank account, a copy of the previous financial identification form may be provided instead.

In addition, for the purpose of the evaluation of the financial capacity, the following documents should be submitted¹⁹:

¹⁹ No supporting documents will be requested for applications for a grant not exceeding EUR 60 000.

For action grants exceeding EUR 750 000 and for operating grants above EUR 100 000, the lead applicant must provide an audit report produced by an approved external auditor where it is available, and always in cases where a statutory audit is required by EU or national law. That report shall certify the accounts for up to the last three available financial years. In all other cases, the applicant shall provide a self-declaration signed by its authorised representative certifying the validity of its accounts for up to the last three available financial years. Such self-declaration shall be dated and signed, either by hand or by applying a qualified electronic signature (QES)²⁰ by an authorised representative of the signatory.

This requirement shall apply only to the first application made by a beneficiary the same contracting authority in any one financial year.

The external audit report is not required from the co-applicant(s) or affiliated entities (if any).

For action grants not exceeding EUR 750 000 and for operating grants below EUR 100 000 a copy of the lead applicant's profit and loss account and the balance sheet for up to the three last financial years for which the accounts were closed²¹. A copy of the latest account is neither required from the co-applicant(s) (if any) nor from affiliated entity(ies) (if any).

Documents must be supplied in the form of originals, photocopies or scanned versions (i.e., showing legible stamps, signatures and dates) of the said originals.

Where such documents are not in one of the official languages of the European or in Arabic, a translation into the language of the call for proposals of the relevant parts of these documents proving the lead applicant's and, where applicable, co-applicants' and affiliated entity(ies)' eligibility, must be attached for the purpose of analysing the application.

Where these documents are in an official language of the European Union other than the language of the call for proposals, it is **strongly recommended**, in order to facilitate the evaluation, to provide a translation of the relevant parts of the documents, proving the lead applicant's and, where applicable, co-applicants' and affiliated entity(ies)' eligibility, into the language of the call for proposals.

If the abovementioned supporting documents are not provided by the deadline for the submission of the application form, the application may be rejected.

No additional annexes should be sent.

2.2.2 Where and how to send applications

Applications must be submitted in **one (1) original** and **one (1) copy** in A4 size, each bound. The complete application form (Part A: concept note and Part B: full application form), PADOR registration form, budget and logical framework must also be supplied in electronic format (CD-ROM or USB stick) in a separate and single file (i.e., the application must not be split into several different files). The electronic file must contain **exactly the same** application as the paper version enclosed. Hand-written applications will not be accepted.

The declaration by the lead applicant (Section 8 of Part B of the grant application form) must be stapled separately and enclosed in the envelope.

Where a lead applicant sends several different applications (if allowed to do so by the guidelines of the call), each one has to be sent separately.

²⁰ Please note that only the QES within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 (eIDAS Regulation) will be accepted. Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC.

²¹ This obligation does not apply to natural persons who have received education support or who are in most need or in receipt of direct support, nor to public bodies and to international organisations. It does not apply either when the accounts are in practice the same documents as the external audit report already provided pursuant to Section 2.2.1, point 1.

The outer envelope must bear the **reference number and the title of the call for proposals**, together with the title and number of the lot, the full name and address of the lead applicant, and the words 'Not to be opened before the opening session' and '*A ne pas ouvrir avant la sèance d'ouverture*'.

Applications must be submitted in a sealed envelope by registered mail, private courier service or by hand-delivery (a signed and dated certificate of receipt will be given to the deliverer) at the address below:

Postal address

AICS Tunis Regional Office
5, rue Harroun Errachid, Mutuelleville –
1002 - Tunis, Tunisie

Address for hand delivery

AICS Tunis Regional Office
5, rue Harroun Errachid, Mutuelleville –
1002 - Tunis, Tunisie

Applications sent by any other means (e.g., by fax or by e-mail) or delivered to other addresses will be rejected.

Please note that incomplete applications may be rejected. Lead applicants are advised to verify that their application is complete using the checklist (Section 7 of Part B of the grant application form).

2.2.3 Deadline for submission of applications

The applicants' attention is drawn to the fact that there are two different systems for sending applications/full proposals: one is **by post or private courier service**, the other is **by hand delivery**.

In the first case, the application/full proposal must be sent before the date for submission, as evidenced by the postmark or deposit slip, but in the second case it is the acknowledgment of receipt given at the time of the delivery of the application/full proposal which will serve as proof.

The deadline for the submission of applications is **16/11/2022** as evidenced by the date of dispatch, the postmark or the date of the deposit slip. In the case of hand-deliveries, the deadline for receipt is at **16/11/2022, before 15:00 Tunis time** as evidenced by the signed and dated receipt. Any application submitted after the deadline will automatically be rejected.

The contracting authority may, for reasons of administrative efficiency, reject any application submitted on time to the postal service but received, for any reason beyond the contracting authority's control, after the effective date of approval of the first evaluation step (i.e., concept note), if accepting applications that were submitted on time but arrived late would considerably delay the award procedure or jeopardise decisions already taken and notified. (See indicative calendar under Section 2.5.2).

2.2.4 Further information about applications

A virtual **information session** on this Call for Proposals will be held on **29/09/2022 at 15:00 Tunis time** via ZOOM platform. Applicants may join the meeting via the following connection details:

Join ZOOM meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82675840106?pwd=eE9oU2orelB2QmErQnhmZ3BKR0xoUT09>

Meeting ID: 826 7584 0106

Passcode: 062755

Dial by your location / Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82675840106>

2021.1

EUTF_RSSDLIBYA_T05.1849_2021_CfP06/EUTFRSSD2/2022_Guidelines for grant applicants

Questions may be sent by e-mail no later than 21 days before the deadline for the submission of applications to the below address(es), indicating clearly the reference of the call for proposals:

E-mail address: tunisi@pec.gov.it

With Cc. to the following address: segreteria.tunisi@aic.gov.it

The contracting authority has no obligation to provide clarifications to questions received after this date.

Replies will be given no later than 11 days before the deadline for the submission of applications.

To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the contracting authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entity(ies), an action or specific activities.

Questions that may be relevant to other applicants, together with the answers, will be published on AICS website: <https://www.aic.gov.it/home-eng/opportunities/noprofit-emergency/> and AICS Tunis Regional Office website <https://tunisi.aic.gov.it/home/opportunita/bandi/>, as the need arises. It is therefore advisable to consult the abovementioned website regularly in order to be informed of the questions and answers published.

Please note that the contracting authority may decide to cancel the call for proposals procedure at any stage according to the conditions set out in Section 6.5.9 of the PRAG.

2.3 EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications will be examined and evaluated by the contracting authority with the possible assistance of external assessors. All applications will be assessed according to the following steps and criteria.

If the examination of the application reveals that the proposed action does not meet the eligibility criteria stated in Section 2.1, the application will be rejected on this sole basis.

STEP 1: OPENING & ADMINISTRATIVE CHECKS AND CONCEPT NOTE EVALUATION

During the opening and administrative check the following will be assessed:

- If the deadline has been met. Otherwise, the application will be automatically rejected.
- If the application satisfies all the criteria specified in the checklist in Section 7 of Part B of the grant application form. This includes also an assessment of the eligibility of the action. If any of the requested information is missing or is incorrect, the application may be rejected on that sole basis and the application will not be evaluated further.

The concept notes that pass this check will be evaluated on the relevance and design of the proposed action.

The concept notes will receive an overall score out of 50 using the breakdown in the evaluation grid below. The evaluation will also check on compliance with the instructions on how to complete the concept note, which can be found in Part A of the grant application form.

The evaluation criteria are divided into headings and subheadings. Each subheading will be given a score between 1 and 5 as follows: 1 = very poor; 2 = poor; 3 = adequate; 4 = good; 5 = very good.

Scores*

1. Relevance of the action	Sub-score	20
1.1 How relevant is the proposal to the objectives and priorities of the call for proposals and to the specific themes/sectors/areas or any other specific requirement stated in	5	

the guidelines for applicants? Are the expected results of the action aligned with the priorities defined in the guidelines for applicants (Section 1.2)?		
1.2 How relevant is the proposal to the particular needs and constraints of the target country(ies), region(s) and/or relevant sectors (including synergy with other development initiatives and avoidance of duplication)?	5	
1.3 How clearly defined and strategically chosen are those involved (final beneficiaries, target groups)? Have their needs (as rights holders and/or duty bearers) and constraints been clearly defined and does the proposal address them appropriately?	5	
1.4 Does the proposal contain particular added-value elements (e.g. innovation, best practices)? <i>and the other additional elements indicated under 1.2. and 2.1.4 of the guidelines for applicants</i>	5	
2. Design of the action	Sub-score	30
2.1 How coherent is the overall design of the action? Does the proposal indicate the expected results to be achieved by the action? Does the intervention logic explain the rationale to achieve the expected results?	5x2**	
2.2 Does the design reflect a robust analysis of the problems involved, and the capacities of the relevant stakeholders?	5	
2.3 Does the design take into account external factors (risks and assumptions)?	5	
2.4 Are the activities feasible and consistent in relation to the expected results (including timeframe)? Are results (output, outcome and impact) realistic?	5	
2.5 To which extent does the proposal integrate relevant cross-cutting elements such as environmental/climate change issues, promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities, needs of disabled people, rights of minorities and rights of indigenous peoples, youth, combating HIV/AIDS (if there is a strong prevalence in the target country/region)?	5	
TOTAL SCORE		50

**this score is multiplied by 2 because of its importance

Once all concept notes have been assessed, a list will be drawn up with the proposed actions ranked according to their total score.

Firstly, only the concept notes with a score of at least 30 will be considered for pre-selection.

Secondly, the number of concept notes will be reduced, taking account of the ranking, to the number of concept notes whose total aggregate amount of requested contributions is equal to 300% of the available budget for this call for proposals. The amount of requested contributions of each concept note will be based on the indicative financial envelopes for each lot, where relevant.

After the evaluation of concept notes, the contracting authority will send letters to all lead applicants, indicating whether their application was submitted by the deadline, informing them of the reference number they have been allocated, whether the concept note was evaluated and the results of that evaluation. The evaluation committee will then proceed with the lead applicants whose proposals have been pre-selected.

STEP 2: EVALUATION OF THE FULL APPLICATION

If the applications pass the opening and administrative checks along the instructions of the Step 1: they will be further evaluated on their quality, including the proposed budget and capacity of the applicants and affiliated entity(ies). They will be evaluated using the evaluation criteria in the evaluation grid below. There are two types of evaluation criteria: selection and award criteria.

The selection criteria help to evaluate the applicant(s)'s and affiliated entity(ies)'s operational capacity and the lead applicant's financial capacity and are used to verify that they:

- have stable and sufficient sources of finance to maintain their activity throughout the proposed action and, where appropriate, to participate in its funding (this only applies to lead applicants);
- have the management capacity, professional competencies and qualifications required to successfully complete the proposed action. This applies to applicants and any affiliated entity(ies).

The award criteria help to evaluate the quality of the applications in relation to the objectives and priorities set forth in the guidelines, and to award grants to projects which maximise the overall effectiveness of the call for proposals. They help to select applications which the contracting authority can be confident will comply with its objectives and priorities. They cover the relevance of the action, its consistency with the objectives of the call for proposals, quality, expected impact, sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

Scoring:

The evaluation grid is divided into Sections and subsections. Each subsection will be given a score between 1 and 5 as follows: 1 = very poor; 2 = poor; 3 = adequate; 4 = good; 5 = very good.

Evaluation grid

Section	Maximum Score
1. Financial and operational capacity	20
1.1 Do the applicants and, if applicable, their affiliated entity(ies) have sufficient in-house experience of project management?	5
1.2 Do the applicants and, if applicable, their affiliated entity(ies) have sufficient in-house technical expertise? (especially knowledge of the issues to be addressed)	5
1.3 Do the applicants and, if applicable, their affiliated entity(ies) have sufficient in-house management capacity? (Including staff, equipment and ability to handle the budget for the action)?	5
1.4 Does the lead applicant have stable and sufficient sources of finance?	5
2. Relevance	20

<i>Score transferred from the Concept Note evaluation</i>	
3. Design of the action	15
3.1 How coherent is the design of the action? Does the proposal indicate the expected results to be achieved by the action? Does the intervention logic explain the rationale to achieve the expected results? Are the activities proposed appropriate, practical, and consistent with the envisaged outputs and outcome(s)?	5
3.2 Does the proposal/Logical Framework include credible baseline, targets and sources of verification? If not, is a baseline study foreseen (and is the study budgeted appropriately in the proposal)?	5
3.3 Does the design reflect a robust analysis of the problems involved, and the capacities of the relevant stakeholders?	5
4. Implementation approach	15
4.1 Is the action plan for implementing the action clear and feasible? Is the timeline realistic?	5
4.2 Does the proposal include an effective and efficient monitoring system? Is there an evaluation planned (previous, during or/and at the end of the implementation)?	5
4.3 Is the co-applicant(s)'s and affiliated entity(ies)'s level of involvement and participation in the action satisfactory?	5
5. Sustainability of the action	15
5.1 Is the action likely to have a tangible impact on its target groups?	5
5.2 Is the action likely to have multiplier effects, including scope for replication, extension, capitalisation on experience and knowledge sharing?	5
5.3 Are the expected results of the proposed action sustainable? - Financially (<i>e.g. financing of follow-up activities, sources of revenue for covering all future operating and maintenance costs</i>) - Institutionally (<i>will structures allow the results of the action to be sustained at the end of the action? Will there be local 'ownership' of the results of the action?</i>) - At policy level (where applicable) (<i>what will be the structural impact of the action — e.g. improved legislation, codes of conduct, methods</i>) - Environmentally (if applicable) (<i>will the action have a negative/positive environmental impact?</i>)	5
6. Budget and cost-effectiveness of the action	15

6.1 Are the activities appropriately reflected in the budget?	/ 5
6.2 Is the ratio between the estimated costs and the results satisfactory?	/ 10
Maximum total score	100

If the total score for Section 1 (financial and operational capacity) is less than 12 points, the application will be rejected. If the score for at least one of the subsections under Section 1 is 1, the application will also be rejected.

If the lead applicant applies without co-applicants or affiliated entities the score for point 4.3 shall be 5 unless the involvement of co-applicants or affiliated entities is mandatory according to these guidelines for applicants.

Provisional selection

After the evaluation, a table will be drawn up listing the applications ranked according to their score. The highest scoring applications will be provisionally selected until the available budget for this call for proposals is reached. In addition, a reserve list will be drawn up following the same criteria. This list will be used if more funds become available during the validity period of the reserve list.

STEP 3: VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF THE APPLICANTS AND AFFILIATED ENTITY(IES)

The eligibility verification will be performed on the basis of the supporting documents requested by the contracting authority (see Section 2.2.1). It will by default only be performed for the applications that have been provisionally selected according to their score and within the available budget for this call for proposals.

- The declaration by the lead applicant (Section 8 of Part B of the grant application form) will be cross-checked with the supporting documents provided by the lead applicant. Any missing supporting document or any incoherence between the declaration by the lead applicant and the supporting documents may lead to the rejection of the application on that sole basis.
- The eligibility of applicants and the affiliated entity(ies) will be verified according to the criteria set out in Section 2.1.1.

Any rejected application will be replaced by the next best placed application on the reserve list that falls within the available budget for this Call for Proposals.

SUBMISSION OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The lead applicant should submit the documents listed in Section 2.2.1.

In addition, a lead applicant whose application has been provisionally selected or placed on the reserve list will be informed in writing by the contracting authority. It will be requested to supply the following documents²²:

1. Declaration on honour: the lead applicant as well as all co-applicants and affiliated entities shall fill in and sign the declaration on honour certifying that they are not in one of the exclusion situations (see Section 2.6.10.1 of the PRAG) where the amount of the grant exceeds EUR 15 000. The declaration on

²² No supporting documents will be requested for applications for a grant not exceeding EUR 60 000.

honour shall be dated and signed, either by hand or by applying a qualified electronic signature (QES)²³ by an authorised representative of the signatory.

2. Self-evaluation questionnaire on SEA-H: the lead applicant as well as all co-applicants and affiliated entities shall fill in the self-evaluation questionnaire assessing the organisation's internal policy and procedure against sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEA-H) (Annex L) where the amount of grant exceeds EUR 60 000 (see Section 2.5.6 of the PRAG)²⁴.

After verifying the supporting documents, the evaluation committee will make a final recommendation to the contracting authority, which will decide on the award of grants.

NB: In the eventuality that the contracting authority is not satisfied with the strength, solidity, and guarantee offered by the structural link between one of the applicants and its affiliated entity, it can require the submission of the missing documents allowing for its conversion into co-applicant. If all the missing documents for co-applicants are submitted, and provided all necessary eligibility criteria are fulfilled, the above mentioned entity becomes a co-applicant for all purposes. The lead applicant has to submit the application form revised accordingly.

2.4 NOTIFICATION OF THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY'S DECISION

2.4.1 Content of the decision

The lead applicants will be informed in writing of the contracting authority's decision concerning their application and, if rejected, the reasons for the negative decision. Please note that the lead applicant is the intermediary for all communications between applicants and the contracting authority during the procedure.

An applicant believing that it has been harmed by an error or irregularity during the award process may lodge a complaint. See Section 2.12 of the practical guide.

Applicants and, if they are legal entities, persons who have powers of representation, decision-making or control over them, are informed that, should they be in one of the situations of early detection or exclusion, their personal details (name, given name if natural person, address, legal form and name and given name of the persons with powers of representation, decision-making or control, if legal person) may be registered in the early detection and exclusion system, and communicated to the persons and entities concerned in relation to the award or the execution of a grant contract. For more information, you may consult the privacy statement available on http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/protecting/protect_en.cfm

2.4.2 Indicative timetable

	DATE	TIME
1. Information meeting (if any)	29/09/2022	15:00
2. Deadline for requesting any clarifications from the contracting authority	26/10/2022	15:00

²³ Please note that only the QES within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 (eIDAS Regulation) will be accepted. Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC.

²⁴ Applicants, co-applicants and affiliated entities who are (i) natural persons (ii) pillar-assessed entities and (iii) governments and other public bodies do not have to submit the self-evaluation questionnaire.

3. Last date on which clarifications are issued by the contracting authority	5/11/2022	-
4. Deadline for submission of applications	16/11/2022	15:00
5. Information to lead applicants on opening, administrative checks and concept note evaluation (Step 1)	02/12/2022	-
7. Information to lead applicants on the evaluation of the full applications (Step 2)	05/01/2023	-
8. Notification of award (after the eligibility check) (Step 3)	12/01/2023	-
9. Contract signature	19/01/2023	-

All times are in the time zone of the country of the contracting authority (Tunis time).

This indicative timetable refers to provisional dates (except for dates 2, 3, and 4) and may be updated by the contracting authority during the procedure. In such cases, the updated timetable will be published on AICS website: <https://www.aics.gov.it/home-eng/opportunities/noprofit-emergency/> and AICS Tunis Regional Office website: <https://tunisi.aics.gov.it/home/opportunita/bandi/>.

2.5 CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION AFTER THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY'S DECISION TO AWARD A GRANT

Following the decision to award a grant, the beneficiary(ies) will be offered a contract based on the standard grant contract (see Annex G of these guidelines). By signing the application form (Annex A of these guidelines), the applicants agree, if awarded a grant, to accept the contractual conditions of the standard grant contract. Where the coordinator is an organisation whose pillars have been positively assessed, it will sign a contribution agreement based on the contribution agreement template. In this case, references to provisions of the standard grant contract and its annexes shall not apply. References in these guidelines to the grant contract shall be understood as references to the relevant provisions of the contribution agreement.

Implementation contracts

Where implementation of the action requires the beneficiary(ies) and its affiliated entity(ies) (if any) to award procurement contracts, those contracts must be awarded in accordance with Annex IV to the standard grant contract.

In this context, a distinction should be made between awarding implementation contracts and subcontracting parts of the action described in the proposal, i.e., the description of the action annexed to the grant contract, such subcontracting being subject to additional restrictions (see the general terms and conditions in the model grant contract).

Awarding implementation contracts: implementation contracts relate to the acquisition by beneficiaries of routine services and/or necessary goods and equipment as part of their project management; they do not cover any outsourcing of tasks forming part of the action that are described in the proposal, i.e., in the description of the action annexed to the grant contract.

Subcontracting: subcontracting is the implementation, by a third party with which one or more beneficiaries have concluded a procurement contract, of specific tasks forming part of the action as described in annex to the grant contract (see also the general terms and conditions in the model grant contract).

3. LIST OF ANNEXES

DOCUMENTS TO BE COMPLETED

- Annex A: Grant application form (Word format)
- Annex B: Budget (Excel format)
- Annex C: Logical framework (Word format)
- Annex D: Legal entity form
- Annex E: Financial identification form
- Annex F: PADOR registration form
- Annex H: Declaration on Honour

DOCUMENTS FOR INFORMATION²⁵

- Annex G: Standard grant contract
 - Annex II: general conditions
 - Annex IV: contract award rules
 - Annex V: standard request for payment
 - Annex VI: model narrative and financial report
 - Annex VII: model report of factual findings and terms of reference for an expenditure verification of an EU financed grant contract for external action, ToR for Expenditure Verification Table of transactions - List of errors
 - Annex VIII: model financial guarantee
 - Annex IX: standard template for transfer of ownership of assets
- Annex I: Daily allowance rates (per diem), available at the following address: https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/funding/guidelines/managing-project/diem-rates_en
- Annex J: Information on the tax regime applicable to grant contracts signed under the call
- Annex K: Guidelines for assessing simplified cost options
- Annex L: Self-evaluation questionnaire on SEA-H

Useful links:

Project Cycle Management Guidelines

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/funding/managing-project_en

The implementation of grant contracts

A Users' Guide

<https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=48169235>

Financial Toolkit

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/financial-management-toolkit_en

Please note: the toolkit is not part of the grant contract and has no legal value. It merely provides general guidance and may in some details differ from the signed grant contract. In order to ensure compliance with their contractual obligations beneficiaries should not exclusively rely on the toolkit but always consult their individual contract documents.

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²⁵ These documents should also be published by the contracting authority.