

IPA Component IIIc - Regional Competitiveness Operational Programme 2007-2009 for Community Assistance under the IPA Regional Development Component in Croatia

Science and Innovation Investment Fund (SIIF) Grant Scheme

Reference: EuropeAid/128624/M/ACT/HR

Tender type: Grant

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Date: **02 July 2009**

NOTE: The final decision concerning eligibility of an applicant, a partner, an action or specific activities will be brought by the Evaluation Committee during the process of Evaluation of applications (subject to ex-ante control of the CFCA and EC Delegation).

NOTE: Questions may be sent by e-mail or by fax no later than **21 days before the each deadline for the submission of applications.**

Final version of Q&A will be published no later than **11 days before each deadline for the submission of applications.**

List of Abbreviations:

CFCA – Central Finance and Contracting Agency

GfA – Guidelines for Applicants

no.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1.	If Project partner is non-profit, public organisation, does the applicant has to satisfy same criteria (of being non-profit, public organisation)?	Yes. The applicant and the partner must satisfy the same eligibility criteria. Under point 2.1.1. of the GfA, Eligibility of applicants: who may apply?, list of criteria that applicants have to satisfy is given. As stated under point 2.1.2. of the GfA, Partnerships and eligibility of partners, partners must satisfy the eligibility criteria as applicable on the grant beneficiary himself.
2.	Concerning the eligibility of the applicants, are private companies and individuals in the area of research and development eligible as applicants?	As stated under point 2.1.1. of the GfA, Eligibility of applicants: who may apply?, applicants have to be legal, non-profit making institutions, and be either public higher education institution or public research organization.

	<p>As stated under point 2.1.1. of the GfA, Eligibility of applicants: who may apply?, applicants have to be legal, non-profit making institutions, and be either public higher education institution or public research organization.</p> <p>In order to further estimate your potential as an applicant, we would like to draw your attention to the Objectives of the Call for Proposals and types of action and activities that may be financed under the Call.</p> <p>As stated under point 2.2.4. of the GfA, Further Information for Applications, in the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the Contracting Authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, a partner, an action or specific activities.</p>
<p>3. Are market research companies eligible as applicants or partners?</p>	
<p>4. Can the focus of the project under this Grant scheme be on purchasing equipment, rather than know-how transfer, seminars or workshops, etc.?</p>	<p>Under point 2.1.3. of the GfA, Eligible actions: actions for which an application may be made, there is a list of eligible actions and activities, as well as ineligible types of action given. Please note that the list of eligible activities includes equipping of new or existing business liaison offices, technology transfer offices, knowledge transfer centers and university spin-offs / start-ups. The list of eligible activities is non-exhaustive; appropriate innovative activities that are not mentioned but fall into the mentioned themes may also be considered for support. However, the list of <u>ineligible actions</u> includes actions confined only or mainly to restoration of buildings, construction and all capital investments.</p> <p>The applicant is responsible for proposing the action that would best fulfill the Objectives of the Call for Proposals.</p> <p>As stated under point 2.2.4. of the GfA, Further Information for Applications, in the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the Contracting Authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, a partner, an action or specific activities.</p> <p>Final recommendation on project proposal will be brought by the Evaluation Committee</p> <p>during the process of Evaluation of applications. During step 2: Evaluation of the Concept</p> <p>Note and step 3: Evaluation of the full application, Evaluation Committee will use Evaluation grids and sub-grids as provided in the GfA under point 2.3 Evaluation and selection of applications, (2) step 2: Evaluation of the Concept Note and (3) step 3: Evaluation of the full application.</p>
<p>5. Could the grant be used for funding procurement of laboratory instruments, equipment and materials, machines and machine tools, all in line with the purpose of the grant?</p>	
<p>6. Could the grant be used for funding building/refurbishment of the venues for the new laboratories and workshops?</p>	

7.	<p>Would the own (beneficiary's) participation in building/refurbishment of the laboratory/workshop venues be considered as own participation in the grant (co-financing)?</p>	<p>Yes. Beneficiary and/or Partner can co-finance any part of the foreseen budgeted project costs. Notwithstanding, please note that contributions in kind are not considered actual expenditure and are not eligible costs. The contributions in kind may not be treated as co-financing by the Beneficiary, as stated under point 2.1.4. Eligibility of costs: costs which may be taken into consideration for the grant, of the GfA; list of ineligible costs is given under same point. Please note that costs incurred before the signing of the contract, including project preparation costs are not eligible costs.</p>
8.	<p>When preparing a project budget, is it necessary to enclose offers for supplies and equipment foreseen to be financed within the project?</p>	<p>No. Market research, including provisional offers (if requested by the Contracting Authority - CFCA), will be requested within the budget clearing process (after all four steps of the Evaluation process are finished and project is recommended for financing).</p>
9.	<p>Are the provisional offers for supplies and equipment enclosed during the budget clearing process (and before signing of the contract), legally binding?</p>	<p>No. Any offers enclosed before signing of the Contract are provisional and only serve the purpose of justifying project costs. They are not binding for the Beneficiary. During the implementation of the Contract, Beneficiary procures services, supplies and works according to annex IV of the Contract, Procurement by grant Beneficiaries in the context of European Community external actions.</p>
10.	<p>Does the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports (MSES) co-finances projects within this Grant Scheme?</p>	<p>Yes. As stated under point 1.3. of the GfA, Financial allocation provided by the Contracting Authority, 25% of the total eligible costs of the action will be financed from the national public contribution of the Beneficiary Country provided by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports (MSES) of the Republic of Croatia.</p>