**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria through the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Georgia announces a procedure for accepting and selecting proposals for projectsto be implemented with a grant within the framework of the Official Development Assistance of the Republic of Bulgaria, with an initial deadline for launching in 2020.

**Priority Areas and Directions for Implementing Projects on the Territory of Georgia are:**

- Strengthening democratic institutions, good governance and administrative capacity, including with respect to human rights protection;

- Implementation of European standards in the field of agriculture and food safety;

- Support for quality and inclusive education, including for children with disabilities.

**1. Objectives and Scope of the Projects:**

- Encouragement of democratic processes, based on the values ​​of democracy and rule of law;

- Establishment of transparent, responsible and stable institutions at national, regional and local level, guaranteiing a high level of human rights protection as a precondition for sustainable and upward development;

- Capacity building and technical support, implementation of structures for sustainable management of agriculture, as well as, ensuring of high level of stability and prosperity;

- Providing quality and accessible education, with a special focus on children, marginalized and vulnerable groups.

**2.  Target Groups:**

- State and local institutions in Georgia;

- Representatives of marginalized and vulnerable groups, with particular emphasis on children, young people, ethnic minorities;

- Penitentiary institutions - prisons, rehabilitation centers;

- Educational institutions - kindergartens, schools, day centers, etc.;

- Representatives of non-governmental organizations, which contribute to implementing the priorities and achieving the goals of the Bulgarian Development Aid.

**3. Outputs/Results:**

- Promotion of the reputation and the international prestige of the Republic of Bulgaria, expansion of the opportunities for knowledge transfer between the Republic of Bulgaria and Georgia through meetings at all levels;

- Enhancement of the interaction between institutions at central, regional and local level, incl. with the aim to ensure high level of human rights protection;

- Higher awareness of the population on topics such as human rights and human rights protection;

- Improvement of the socio-economic development and good governance, leading to sustainable and inclusive economic development;

- Reduction of poverty and increasing of welfare through the establishment of socially significant infrastructure;

- Adoption and implementation of good practices and European standards in the field of agriculture and the sustainable management of agricultural resources;

- Quality improvement and enhanced access to education, incl. for the most vulnerable parts of the population.

**4. Eligible Project Budget:**

4.1. Minimal ammount of the project is 5 000 BGN.

4.2. Recommended maximum ammount of the poject is:

* for projects with main purpose to deliver goods and /or services - up to 70 000 BGN;
* for projects with main purpose to carry out repairs and /or construction activities - up to 270 000 BGN.

**5. Implementation Deadlines and Duration of the Projects:**

**5.1**. Project proposals must contain an indicative start date for the implementation of the project after March 1, 2020 and no later than November 30, 2020.

**5.2**. Projects must be completed no later than December 31, 2022 (the third year of the Bulgarian three-year budget forecast).

**6. Eligible Candidates:**

* Primary and secondary budget spenders - legal entities of Georgia;
* International and local non-governmental organizations;
* Municipalities and their associations;
* Educational, health and social institutions;
* International humanitarian organisations.

No natural or legal person can apply for whom there are circumstances under Art. 23, para. 3-8[[1]](#footnote-1) of Decree No. 234 of the Council of Ministers of 01.08.2011 on the policy of the Republic of Bulgaria on participation in international development cooperation**.**

**7.   Eligible Activities and Project Costs:**

**7.1.**  **The Costs of Project Implementation must Meet All of the Conditions below:**

 -be lawful;

 - be executed only with the necessary invoices or supporting documents, testifying the expenditures incurred;

 - be within the budget limits of the project;

 - not funded by any other project, program or any other financial scheme, related to the national budget, the EU budget or any other donor.

**7.2.**  **Compulsory Activities to be provided in the Project:**
 - providing of an audit report by an independent financial auditor;
 - ensuring the visibility of the financial assistance provided, in accordance with the Guidelines for publicity and visibility of Bulgarian development aid.

**7.3. Examples of Activities Eligible for Funding:**

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| * Development of new/modernization of existing training modules;
* Organization and conducting of trainings for civil servants;
* Conducting trainings on specific topics in Bulgarian institutions with the aim to exchange best practices and enhance the skills of the civil servants;
* Organization and conducting of seminars, forums, conferences;
* Development of research activities and strategies;
* Activities to raise awareness of citizens' rights;
* Activities promoting the multicultural dialogue and mitigating/ eliminating racism, xenophobia, hate speech, discrimination and intolerance in society;
* Activities improving the dialogue between the non-governmental organizations and the local, regional and national authorities;
* Supply of equipment and materials for schools, kindergartens, centers for children with disabilities, etc.;
* Construction works for the improvement of schools, hospitals, kindergartens, centers for children with disabilities, etc.
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**8. Required Documents for Application:**

An Application Form is available on the following website in Bulgarian and English: [https://www.mfa.bg/upload/37116/Формуляр%20F.doc](https://www.mfa.bg/upload/37116/%D0%A4%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%BC%D1%83%D0%BB%D1%8F%D1%80%20F.doc),

<https://www.mfa.bg/upload/37117/App_Form_Development_2019%20F.doc>

All parts of the application form should be filled in clearly and properly in either Bulgarian or English. In case of omissions that hinder the evaluation of the project proposal, the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Georgia may require additional information within a short period of time. Failure to provide such information within the deadline shall be considered a ground for rejecting the proposal.

**9. Method and Deadlines for Projects Applications:**

Project proposals with accompanying documentation should be sent not later than 28 June 2019, as follows:

* Via email to embassy.tbilisi@mfa.bg with a copy to christiana.christova@mfa.bg and mbrankov@mfa.bg;
* On postal way to: Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Georgia; 15, Vakhtang Gorgasali Lane, 0105 Tbilisi, Georgia

**10. Additional Information:**

Candidates shall be informed of the results of the evaluation within 10 working days of the decision of the competent authority. The Embassy / Consulate General of the Republic of Bulgaria in Georgia has no obligation to inform candidates of the grounds for approval or refusal of the submitted project proposals.

**Annex 1**

**Decree No 234 of the Council of Ministers of 01.08.2011 on the policy of the Republic of Bulgaria regarding its participation in international development cooperation (excerpts)**

**Article 23**(**3**) **A legal person seeking to apply for the provision of development aid must not**:

1. be declared bankrupt;
2. be in liquidation proceedings or in a similar procedure under the national laws and regulations;
3. be in open insolvency proceedings or must not have entered into an out-of-court settlement with its creditors within the meaning of Article 740 of the Commerce Act, and if the applicant is a non-resident – it must not be in a similar procedure under the national laws and regulations, including if its activities are under the court's control or it has ceased its activities;
4. be disqualified from practicing a particular profession or activity under the law of the State in which the offense was committed;
5. have any monetary debts owed to the State or a municipality within the meaning of Article 162, paragraph 2 of the Tax and Social Insurance Procedure Code established by an act of a competent authority which has entered into force, unless rescheduling or deferral of the debts has been allowed, or monetary debts relating to the payment of social insurance contributions or taxes under the legal provisions of the State in which it is established;
6. have any outstanding private debts owed to the State listed in Article 3, paragraph 7 of the National Revenue Agency Act.

**(4) A legal person seeking to apply for the provision of development aid must not have a member of the management body that**:

1. has been convicted by a final sentence for indictable offense;
2. has not fulfilled his/her/its obligations relating to the payment of social insurance contributions or taxes in accordance with the applicable law;
3. has provided deliberately false documents when providing information requested as a condition for financing development aid activities or has not provided such information;
4. has been disqualified from practicing a particular profession or activity under the law of the State in which the offense was committed;
5. is a legal person for which any of the circumstances under paragraph 3 exist;
6. has any outstanding private debts owed to the State listed in Article 3, paragraph 7 of the National Revenue Agency Act.

**(6) Where the members of the management bodies are legal persons, the requirements of paragraph 5 shall apply to their representatives in the relevant management bodies.**

**(7) Persons seeking to apply for the provision of development aid must not**:

1. have a member of a management or supervisory body, as well as such person ad interim, including a procurator or a commercial agent who has “close links”, within the meaning of § 1, item 1 of the Supplementary Provision of the Conflict of Interest Prevention and Ascertainment Act, with the agency administering the relevant project or with senior employees in his/her organisation;
2. have entered into a contract with a person under Article 21 or 22 of the Conflict of Interest Prevention and Ascertainment Act.
1. See Annex 1 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)