**Call for Proposals**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria through the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Podgorica announces a procedure for accepting and selecting proposals for projects to 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 the Republic of Montenegro are:**

**-** Environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources;
- Improving the quality of education and healthcare, protecting and caring for the rights of children with disabilities and disadvantaged children;
- Improving the administrative capacity for reforms in the public and local administration.

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

- Supporting and implementing activities related to the protection of environment and sustainable management of natural resources such as conservation of biodiversity, air and nature, water and waste management, innovative clean technologies; including activities related to fulfillment the criteria on Chapter 27 – Environment and Climate Change;

- Supporting and implementing activities related to improving the quality of education, supporting innovative teaching methods and educational approaches, modernization of schools and daily care centers for children and youth, centers for children with disabilities and disadvantaged children;

- Supporting and implementing activities related to improving the quality of healthcare, modernization of hospitals;

- Protecting and caring for the rights of children with disabilities and disadvantaged children;

- Providing support for improving the Montenegro's administrative capacity to achieve democratic reform processes, especially with regard to state institutions and municipalities that currently lack sufficient experience and staff capacity for the respective functions and activities.

**2.  Target Groups:**

- state institutions;
- non-governmental organizations;

- municipalities;
- educational institutions;

- hospitals.

**3. Outputs/Results:**

- improving socio-economic development and good governance leading to sustainable and inclusive economic growth;

- improving the welfare and health of people;

- providing quality education;
- protection of human rights;

- improving administrative capacity;
- affirmation of the good name and international prestige of Bulgaria.

**4. Eligible Project Budget:**

4.1. Minimum project value - 5 000 BGN (about 2 500 EUR).
4.2. Recommended maximum poject value:

·                     for projects with main purpose to deliver goods and /or services - up to 70 000 BGN (about 35 000 EUR);

·                     for projects with main purpose to carry out repairs and /or construction activities - up to 270 000 BGN (about 135 000 EUR).

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

**5.1**. The project proposals must contain an indicative initial term for the implementation of the project after March 1, 2020 and no later than November 30, 2020.
**5.2**. The Projects must be completed no later than December 31, 2022 (the third year of the Bulgarian three-years budget forecast).

**6. Eligible Candidates:**

**-** Primary and secondary budget spenders;
- Local non-governmental organizations;
- Municipalities and their associations;
- Educational, health and social institutions;

- Other organizations and associations that have no political goals and involvement and no economic activity.

No natural or legal person can apply if there are circumstances under Art. 23, para. 3-8 from [Decree No. 234 of the Council of Ministers from 01.08.2011](http://saveti.government.bg/c/document_library/get_file?p_l_id=11349&folderId=11355&name=DLFE-4507.pdf) regarding the policy of the Republic of Bulgaria on participation in the international development cooperation**.**

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

**7.1.**  **The Costs of the Project Implementation must Meet the Following Conditions:**
- be lawful;
- be executed only with the necessary invoices or supporting documents, proving the expenditures;
- 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 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:**

Eligible activities contributing to strengthening the public institutions in the partner country responsible for the development and implementation of the national policy in priority areas and aimed at contributing to the enhancement of their transparency, accountability and effectiveness and to strengthening the civil society development and enhancing its contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development, for example:

 • Development of new/modernization of existing training modules;

• Organizing and conducting trainings for employees from the administration of the partner country;

• Conducting trainings on specific topics in Bulgarian institutions for the exchange of good practices and raising the skills of the employees from the administration of the partner country;

• Organizing and conducting seminars, forums, conferences;

• Development of research and strategies;

• Activities to raise awareness of citizens' rights;

• Activities to promote multicultural dialogue and to restraint racism, xenophobia, hate speech, discrimination and intolerance in society;

• Activities to improve dialogue between non-governmental organizations and local, regional and national authorities.

• Activities related to improving the quality and increasing the potential of the sites through the supply of equipment and materials, construction works, restoration, renewal, rehabilitation, measures for preservation and improvement of adjacent buildings and infrastructure, public buildings and other complementary sites , for example:

• Supply of equipment and materials intended for state or municipal property - schools, hospitals, kindergartens, old people's homes, etc.

• Construction works for improvement of state or municipal property objects - schools, hospitals, kindergartens, old people's homes, etc.

**8. Required Documents for Application:**

An Application Form is available on the following website in [Bulgarian](https://www.mfa.bg/upload/37343/BG_Application_Form.docx) and [English](https://www.mfa.bg/upload/37344/EN_Application_Form.docx).

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 Podgorica 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:**

**The project proposals will be accepted:**

**- at the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Podgorica / Vukice Mitrovic str. 10 /,
- by registered post or
- by e-mail at** **Embassy.Podgorica@mfa.bg****.**

**The projects should be in Bulgarian or in English, signed and stamped.**

**Projects will be accepted by 28 June 2019 inclusive.**

**10. Additional Information:**

Candidates shall be informed about the results of the evaluation within 10 working days from the decision of the competent authority. The Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Podgorica has no obligation to inform candidates about the reasons for approval or refusal of the submitted project proposals.