**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria through the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Kiev 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 2021.

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

* Fostering inclusive and quality education, including by improving the school infrastructure;
* Preserving cultural diversity and the common cultural and historical heritage and encouraging the inter-cultural understanding;
* Supporting freedom of speech and media freedom by fostering quality independent civil journalism;
* Human rights protection and guaranteeing by building effective responsible and inclusive institutions at all levels;
* Improving private sector’s access to the European market by applying EU standards with special focus on agriculture.
1. **Objectives and Scope of the Projects:**
* Creating new specialized educational centers (including necessary equipment) - language and science laboratories, gyms etc.
* Modernizing the infrastructure of educational institutions;
* Contributing to the libraries of educational institutions;
* Organizing training courses for teachers;
* Introducing latest technologies to the classrooms to improve the quality of the educational process;
* Organizing art events: festivals (movies, theater, opera, dances, folklore, music etc.), art exhibitions, concerts etc.;
* Maintaining, reconstructing and repairing cultural infrastructure – theaters, galleries, historical and cultural landmarks, monuments etc.;
* Supporting and promoting movies and documentaries related to the cultural diversity in Ukraine;
* Establishing specialized consultative bodies within the public and local administration for providing assistance to the business representatives in view of EU cooperation;
* Organizing training courses for central and local administrative staff engaged in supporting private sector in its cooperation with the EU;
* Encouraging and supporting local companies and producers in view of their positioning in the EU market;
* Improving the quality and capacity of the local businesses’ activities aimed at cooperation with the EU;
* Supporting journalistic platforms and projects oriented towards objectivity and truthfulness of information;
* Supporting ethnic minorities’ media.
1. **Target Groups:**
* Students, including special needs persons
* School and university teachers and administrative staff
* Moviegoers, admirers of performing arts
* Entrepreneurs, manufacturers, farmers
* Government and local administration representatives
* Minorities representatives
* Freelance journalists
* Freelance political analyzers and experts.
1. **Outputs/Results:**

Affirmation Bulgaria’s good reputation and prestige;

Enhancing the quality of education and implementing new educational technologies;

Modernizing existing cultural spaces;

Founding independent media projects;

Organizing cultural events and adding them to the cultural calendar of Ukraine;

Enhancing the social and economic development and the good governance leading to sustainable and inclusive economic development; encouraging the economic cooperation with Bulgaria and EU as a whole;

Reducing poverty and raising welfare;

Promoting the institutional interaction at central, regional and local levels.

1. **Eligible Project Budget:**

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

4.2. Recommended maximum amount of the project is:

* for projects focused on supplying goods and /or services - up to 70 000 BGN;
* for projects focused on repairs and /or construction activities - up to 270 000 BGN.
1. **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, 2021 and no later than November 30, 2021.

**5.2**. Projects must be completed no later than December 31, 2023.

1. **Eligible Candidates:**
* Primary and secondary budget spenders - legal entities of Ukraine;
* International and local non-governmental organizations;
* Municipalities and their associations;
* Educational, health and social institutions;
* International humanitarian organizations;
* Legal entities, entrepreneurs, farmers;
* Others (cultural institutions, theaters, libraries, galleries).

No physical or legal entity can apply for whom there are circumstances under Art. 23, para. 3-8[[1]](https://www.mfa.bg/en/embassies/ukraine/news/21207%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn1) 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**.**

1. **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:**

Lawful activities contributing to strengthening public institutions in Ukraine that deal with the national policy in priority spheres aimed at promoting their transparency, responsibility and effectiveness and adding to the development of the civil society, increasing its share to the social justice, democracy and sustainable development, sustainable economic development and cooperation with the EU, e. g.:

* Developing new/modernizing existing educational modules;
* Organizing training courses for representatives of Ukraine’s administration;
* Organizing training in Bulgarian institutions for sharing good practices and raising the qualification of the Ukrainian administration;
* Organizing seminars, forums and conferences, training courses;
* Participating in specialized exhibitions and events with international economic orientation in Ukraine, Bulgaria and other EU member state;
* Developing researches and strategies;
* Activities spreading information regarding the rights of the citizens;
* Activities encouraging the multicultural dialogue and restraining racism, xenophobia, hate speech, discrimination and intolerance;
* Activities aimed at improving the dialogue between the NGOs and the local, regional and central authorities;
* Activities related to improving the infrastructure in the corresponding area and upgrading the location’s potential by new equipment, materials, construction works, renovation, rehabilitation, improving adjacent buildings and infrastructure, public buildings and others, e. g.
* Supplying equipment and materials for state- or municipality-owned buildings – schools, hospitals, kindergartens, nursery homes etc.
* Construction works to improve such locations;
* Supplying necessary equipment, reconstruction, construction, certifying activities etc. aimed at improving the capacity and quality of production including harmonizing with the EU requirements for international trade cooperation etc.
1. **Required Documents for Application:**

An Application Form is available on the following website

in Bulgarian: Link 1

and English: Link 2.

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 Kiev 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.

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

 All projects should be submitted **by 10 July, 2020** to the Embassy’s e-mail: Bulgarian.ODA.Kiev@mfa.bg.

Candidates should submit a scanned copy of the printed and signed project form in PDF format, as well as the form in DOC (MS Office Word) format. They also need to provide in DOC format brief information about the candidate showing data for their legal registration, basic activities, date of registration, accomplished projects, administrative capacity (staff number) and experience in the activities sphere. Candidates are also requested to enclose copies of the companies’ offers showing the prices of the activities as stated in the project (buying materials or providing services).

1. **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 of the Republic of Bulgaria in Kiev has no obligation to inform candidates of the grounds for approval or refusal of the submitted project proposals.

We answer your questions regarding the procedure for participating every Tuesday and Thursday, 14.00-15.00 at tel.: +38 044 246 72 37.

[See Annex 1](https://www.mfa.bg/upload/37660/22%20Annex%201.doc)

**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.