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|  | **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**  **Procedure for acceptance of project proposals for grants from the Republic of Bulgaria** |

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria through the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam announces a procedure for the acceptance and selection of proposals for projectsto be implemented with a grant through the Official Development Assistance of the Republic of Bulgaria, with an initial implementation period in 2022.

**Priority Areas for Project Implementation on the territory of Vietnam:**

*- Providing for inclusive and quality education;*

*- Promoting gender equality and inclusive development;*

*- Improving the quality of healthcare;*

*- Enhancing economic connectivity and creating conditions for sustainable economic development; supporting inclusive entrepreneurship and promoting the implementation of EU standards (including under the Team Europe initiative).*

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

*- Creating conditions for quality and accessible education through: raising teachers’ professional qualification, modernising training and teaching programmes and teaching tools, encouraging the establishment of international links and exchanges between educational institutions, introducing modern technological innovations in educational institutions, procurement of equipment, etc.;*

*- Support for vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities or migrant women to major cities in Vietnam, etc., for acquiring professional and social skills; protection of children's rights;*

*- Encouraging the establishment of mechanisms and favourable conditions for equal participation of women and girls in peace and security-related processes, as well as the economic, social and cultural life; support and assistance to vulnerable groups of women and girls; improving women's access to healthcare;*

*- Providing quality healthcare and prevention through: modernisation of medical equipment, development of the administrative capacity of the healthcare sector, increasing preparedness for public health emergencies, exchange of good practices in the field of healthcare, disease prevention, incl. of zoonotic diseases, traditional medicine;*

*- Creating conditions for enhancing the economic connectivity between Bulgaria and Vietnam, e.g. by holding seminars on exchange of information on business opportunities under the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement, incl. in a hybrid/online format, acquaintance with the market access rules and opportunities, harmonisation of customs standards, phytosanitary control, support for inclusive entrepreneurship, etc.*

**2.  Target Groups:**

*- State and local institutions in Vietnam;*

*- Educational institutions – higher education institutions, kindergartens, schools, etc.;*

*- Healthcare institutions – hospitals, clinics;*

*- Social institutions – centres for disadvantaged/vulnerable people, day care centres, etc., registered in Vietnam according to the relevant national legislation;*

*- Non-governmental organisations, registered in Vietnam according to the relevant national legislation.*

**3. Outputs/Results:**

*- Strengthening the international contribution and image of the Republic of Bulgaria, expanding opportunities for knowledge transfer and exchange of good practices between Bulgaria and Vietnam in the context of the relations of traditional friendship and cooperation;*

*- Strengthening the principles of good governance to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic and social development;*

*- Increasing prosperity through raising professional qualification and building significant public infrastructure in the fields of education and healthcare;*

*- Building sustainable capacity for quality healthcare and preventing the spread of infectious diseases;*

*- Adoption and implementation of good practices and European standards in the fields of empowerment of women, and protection of the rights of children, people with disabilities and other vulnerable social groups.*

*- Adoption and implementation of good practices and European standards in the field of inclusive entrepreneurship.*

**4. Eligible Project Budget:**

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

4.2. Recommended maximum project funding amount:

* 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 150 000 BGN.

4.3. Co-financing of project activities provided by the applicant will be considered an advantage in the evaluation, selection and approval of the projects.

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

5.1. Project proposals must contain an indicative start date for implementation after March 1, 2022 and no later than November 30, 2022.

5.2. Projects must be completed no later than December 31, 2024.

**6. Eligible Candidates:**

* Primary and secondary budget spenders - legal entities of Vietnam;
* International and local non-governmental organizations, registered in Vietnam according to its national legislation;
* Municipalities and their affiliates;
* Educational, healthcare and social institutions;
* International humanitarian organisations.

No physical or legal entities 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 expenditures for the project implementation must meet all of the criteria below:**

- be lawful and comply with the principles of accountability, economy, efficiency, effectiveness and transparency;

- be executed with the due financial diligence, only with official tax invoices and other supporting financial documents of equivalent value, testifying to the expenditures incurred;

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

**7.2.** **Compulsory Activities to be provided in the Project:**

- provision of an audit report issued by an independent financial auditor;

- activities to ensure publicity and visibility of the financial assistance provided, in accordance with the Publicity and Visibility Guidelines of the Bulgarian Development Aid, worth 3 to 5% of the total project value, but not exceeding 5 000 BGN.

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

*- Development of new/modernization of existing training modules and development of teaching resources and materials;*

*- Improving the access to education; raising the qualification of teachers;*

*- Organising and conducting of trainings for civil servants;*

*- Conducting trainings on specific topics аt Bulgarian and local institutions with the aim to exchange best practices and enhance the skills of the civil servants, or employees at other legal entities, registered under the national law;*

*- Organisation and conducting of seminars, forums, conferences;*

*- Development of research activities and strategies;*

*- Creating conditions for equal participation of women in the economic, social and cultural life;*

*- Protecting and guaranteeing the rights of children, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups;*

*- Activities improving the dialogue between the non-governmental organizations and the local, regional and national authorities;*

*- Increasing the readiness to react in public health emergencies; experience exchange in healthcare; disease prevention;*

*- Procurement of equipment and materials for higher education institutions, schools, kindergartens, hospitals, centres for children with disabilities, etc.;*

*- Construction and repair works for improvement of schools, hospitals, kindergartens, social centres and homes, etc.*

**8. Required Documents for Application:**

An Application Form is available on the following website in Bulgarian and English: <https://www.mfa.bg/bg/3866>

All fields of the application form should be duly completed in Bulgarian and/or English. In case of any deficiencies that hinder the evaluation of the project proposal, the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam may require additional information within a short period of time. Failure to provide such information within the deadline shall be considered a ground for rejection of the proposal.

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

*Project proposals with accompanying documentation should be sent not later than 30 June 2021, as follows:*

*- Via email to* [*embassy.hanoi@mfa.bg*](mailto:embassy.hanoi@mfa.bg) *in PDF and DOC/DOCX format.*

*- By post: Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Hanoi, № 5, Ngo 294, Kim Ma Street, Ba Dinh, Hanoi.*

**10. Additional Information:**

Applicants shall be informed of the results of the procedure for evaluation, selection and approval of the project proposals within 14 working days of the completion of the individual stages of the procedure. The Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has no obligation to inform applicants about the grounds for approval or rejection 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 entity 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 entity 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)