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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 Kiev 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 Ukraine:**

* Ensuring inclusive and quality education and improving the school infrastructure;
* Preserving cultural diversity and the common cultural and historical heritage and encouraging the inter-cultural understanding;
* Support for freedom of speech and media through encouraging quality and independent civil journalism;
* Promoting universal health coverage and access to quality health services;
* Support for the development of the administrative capacity of the small and medium-sized business, improving their access to European market through applying European standards.

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

* Setting up new and supporting existing specialized educational centers: laboratories, language cabinets, gyms etc.
* Modernizing the infrastructure of educational institutions
* Updating and completing 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 and repairing cultural landmarks state or municipal property – theaters, galleries, monuments etc.
* Supporting and promoting movies and documentaries related to the cultural diversity in Ukraine
* Building and equipping health units, laboratories, clinics etc.
* Supplying medicines And consumables for health units
* Establishing specialized consultative bodies within the public and local administration for providing assistance to the small and medium-sized business representatives aimed at cooperation wit the EU
* Organizing training courses for public and local administration representatives dealing with the private sector to assist its cooperation wit the EU
* Assisting local companies and producers to position themselves on the EU market
* Enhancing the quality and activity capacity of the local business aimed at EU cooperation
* Supporting journalistic platforms and projects oriented towards objectivity and truthfulness of information
* Supporting ethnic and minorities media.

**2.  Target Groups:**

* Students, including special needs persons
* School and university teachers and administrative staff
* Moviegoers, admirers of performing arts
* Doctors, health workers, managers of health units
* Entrepreneurs
* Government and local administration representatives
* Minorities members
* Freelance journalists
* Freelance political analyzers and experts.

**3. Outputs/Results:**

Affirmation of Bulgaria’s 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 introducing them to the cultural calendar of Ukraine;

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

Reducing poverty and raising welfare

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

**4. 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 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 – from 70 000 to 270 000 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 the implementation of the project 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 Ukraine;
* 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 and comply with the principles of responsibility, economy, efficiency, effectiveness and transparency;

- be executed only against the necessary supporting documents - invoices or other documents of equivalent probative value, testifying the expenditures incurred;

- be within the budget limits of the project;

- 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:**

Lawful activities contributing to strengthening public institutions in Ukraine that deal with the national policy implementation aimed at promoting their transparency, responsibility and effectiveness and adding to the development of the civil society, to increasing its share to the social justice, democracy and sustainable development, 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 (in compliance with the COVID-19 quarantine restrictions);
* 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.

**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 parts 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 Ukraine 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:**

All projects (scanned in PDF format) should be submitted **by 30 June, 2021** to the Embassy’s e-mail: [Bulgarian.ODA.Kiev@mfa.bg](mailto:Bulgarian.ODA.Kiev@mfa.bg)

**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 Ukraine 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 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)