



**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 Republic of Armenia announces a procedure for the acceptance and selection of proposals for projects to be implemented with a grant through the Official Development Assistance of the Republic of Bulgaria, with an initial implementation period in 2023.

**Priority Areas for Project Implementation on the territory of the Republic of Armenia:**

- *Strengthen the rule of law, reform the public sector, build capacity at the local level, protect and guarantee human rights with special attention to women, children, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups;*
- *Sustainable economic development and support for sustainable employment; development of entrepreneurship by improving the capacity of institutions and / or organizations supporting the development of small and medium business; support for business in the implementation of EU standards and overcoming the negative socio-economic consequences of COVID-19;*
- *Improving the quality of health care, incl. by improving infrastructure and pandemic preparedness;*
- *Increasing the quality of education, incl. by improving the educational infrastructure.*

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

- *affirmation of the good name and international authority of Bulgaria;*
- *strengthening the administrative and expert capacity of the Armenian institutions engaged in the protection of human rights, the rule of law, good governance of public funds, etc. ;*
- *strengthening the capacity and sustainability of the health system, including the provision of quality health services and education for women and girls, in accordance with their specific needs and post-conflict reconstruction services;*
- *raising the awareness of Armenian citizens about their rights;*
- *ensuring access to modern, quality and inclusive education;*
- *promoting sustainable, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;*

- *development of micro, small and medium business, introduction of innovations and creation of new jobs;*
- *improving the quality of employment and opportunities for entrepreneurship, access to digital technologies and services, etc .;*
- *sharing the Bulgarian experience and good practices from the process of democratic and market transition, as well as gaining knowledge on the application of EU standards.*

## **2. Target Groups:**

- Central and municipal administration, representatives of the Armenian institutions;
- Representatives of various social and minority groups, vulnerable categories of persons (children with disabilities, migrants, the elderly and people with disabilities);
- Young men, girls and young women; pupils and students receiving education in various educational institutions;
- Representatives of the civil sector and non-governmental organizations;
- International and local non-governmental organizations;
- Municipalities and their associations;
- Educational, health and social institutions;
- International humanitarian organizations.

## **3. Outputs/Results:**

- *better governance leading to sustainable and inclusive social and economic development;*
- *raised awareness of Armenian citizens about their rights and the opportunities provided in Armenian law for their protection;*
- *enriched positive image and visibility of Bulgaria in Armenia;*
- *strengthened administrative and expert capacity of Armenian public and non-governmental institutions;*
- *realized access to modern, quality and inclusive education;*
- *increased level of participation of young people and women in the socio-economic and political life of Armenia;*
- *improving the quality and scope of health services.*

## **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 - up to 100 000 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, 2023 and no later than November 30, 2023.

5.2. Projects must be completed no later than December 31, 2025.

## **6. Eligible Candidates:**

- Primary and secondary budget spenders - legal entities of the Republic of Armenia;
- 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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> See Annex 1

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

- *Development of new or modernization of existing training modules;*
- *Organizing and conducting trainings for the employees of the administration;*
- *Arranging and conducting seminars, forums, conferences;*
- *Awareness raising activities for citizens' rights;*
- *Activities to improve the dialogue between non-governmental organizations and local, regional and national authorities;*
- *Delivery of equipment and materials intended for state or municipal property - schools, hospitals, kindergartens, homes for the elderly, etc .;*
- *Construction works for the improvement of state or municipal property sites - schools, hospitals, kindergartens, homes for the elderly, etc;*
- *Conducting trainings in national or international format for sharing good practices leading to improving personal skills and quality administrative services.*

### 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 the Republic of Armenia 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:

*The submission of project proposals under the procedure is done entirely electronically, as applicants fill in and send the application form, both in PDF and in word file to the following email: [secretary.yerevan@mfa.bg](mailto:secretary.yerevan@mfa.bg)*

*The deadline for submissions is: **30 June 2022**. Project proposals sent by post or otherwise other than those mentioned above will not be considered*

### 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 Republic of Armenia 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.