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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 to the Republic of Azerbaijan 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 2023.

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

*- Support for quality and inclusive education;*

*- Protection and enforcement of the rights of children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable social groups.*

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

*- Creating conditions for quality and inclusive education through, for example, modernizing training and teaching programs, improving the educational infrastructure and introducing modern technologies and innovations in the educational process;*

*- Strengthening the administrative capacity at national, regional and local level of the Azerbaijani institutions engaged with the protection of the children’s rights, rights of people with disabilities and other vulnerable social groups;*

*- Improving the social environment for vulnerable groups, incl. in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic impact on these groups.*

**2.  Target Groups:**

*- State and local institutions in Azerbaijan;*

*- Educational institutions - kindergartens, schools, universities, daycare centres, etc.;*

*- Marginalized and vulnerable groups, with particular emphasis on children, people with disabilities, refugees and IDPs.*

*- Associations and organizations, whose projects contribute to implementing the priorities and achieving the goals of the Bulgarian Official Development Aid.*

**3. Outputs/Results:**

*- Promotion and affirmation of the good reputation and international prestige of the Republic of Bulgaria;*

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

*- Expanding the opportunities for knowledge transfer between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Azerbaijan;*

*- Improving the educational and social infrastructure.*

**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 60 000 BGN;
* for projects with main purpose to carry out repairs and /or construction activities - up to 60 000 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 Azerbaijan;*
* *International and local non-governmental organizations;*
* *Municipalities and their associations;*
* *Educational, health and social institutions;*
* *International humanitarian organisations;*
* *Others - organizations, which contribute with their activities to the international prestige of the Republic of Bulgaria, and work in the fields, specified in the call for proposals.*

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:**

***Activities, which: contribute to the strengthening of the public institutions, responsible for the development and the implementation of the national policy in the priority areas; aim to enhance their transparency, responsibility and efficiency; promote the civil society’s development and increase its contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development, as follows:***

* *Development of new/modernization of existing training modules;*
* *Organization and conducting of trainings for civil servants;*
* *Conducting trainings on specific topics in Bulgarian institutions with the aim to exchange best practices and enhance the skills of the civil servants;*
* *Organization and conducting of seminars, forums, conferences (taking into account the measures connected with the CODID-19 situation in the country);*
* *Development of research activities and strategies;*
* *Activities to raise awareness of citizens' rights;*
* *Activities promoting the multicultural dialogue and mitigating/eliminating racism, xenophobia, hate speech, discrimination and intolerance in society;*
* *Activities improving the dialogue between the non-governmental organizations and the local, regional and national authorities.*

***Activities, related to the improvement of the infrastructure quality and the capacities’ expansion of the infrastructural objects through equipment and materials supply, construction works, restoration, renewal, rehabilitation, measures to preserve and improve adjacent buildings and infrastructure, public buildings and other complementary sites, such as:***

* *Supply of equipment and materials for state or municipal property – schools, hospitals, kindergartens, old people's homes, etc.;*
* *Construction works for the improvement of state or municipal property – schools, hospitals, kindergartens, centres for children with disabilities, 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 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 to the Republic of Azerbaijan 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 2022****, as follows:*

*- Via email in both pdf and word formats to* *embassy.baku@mfa.bg*

- *By post to: Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Baku, 13 Huseyn Javid prosp., AZ 1073, Baku*

**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 Baku 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)