

**Questions and Answers n°1  
Concept Note phase**

**EN**

**Restricted Call for Proposals**

**“Local Authorities: Partnerships for sustainable cities 2021”**

**EuropeAid/171273/DH/ACT/Multi**

**As set out in section 2.2.4 of the guidelines, to ensure equal treatment of applicants, the contracting authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entity(ies), an action or specific activities.**

Eligibility of the applicants		
QUESTIONS		ANSWERS
1	<p>We are currently implementing “Local Authorities: Partnerships for sustainable cities” as partner/Co-applicant under the second call which was published in February 2020. We want to apply as a lead applicant looking to address different objectives from the one we are currently implementing.</p> <p>We however want to know if we are eligible under this recent call with reference EuropeAid/171273/DH/ACT/Multi. We also want to know if we are eligible to apply with the same EU member state Partner.</p>	<p>There is no restriction for grant beneficiaries resulting from previous calls to participate to the 2021 call on local authorities.</p> <p>To be eligible for co-financing under this call, actions must comply with the objectives and the priorities of this call for proposals described in section 1.2 of the guidelines.</p> <p>For the eligible entities as lead applicants and co-applicants under this call for proposals, please refer to section 2.1.1 of the Guidelines.</p>
2	<p>In the past, XXX in São Tomé e Príncipe, submit a proposal to this Call. That proposal was refused, as you can see in the attached file.</p> <p>My question, at this moment is: Can XXX present a new proposal at this phase of the call?</p>	<p>As set out in section 2.2.4 of the guidelines, to ensure equal treatment of applicants, the contracting authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entity(ies), an action or specific activities.</p> <p>To be eligible for co-financing under this call, actions must comply with the objectives and the priorities of this call for proposals described in section 1.2 of the guidelines.</p> <p>For the eligible entities as lead applicants and co-applicants under this call for proposals, please refer to section 2.1.1 of the Guidelines.</p>
3	<p>We have seen the call on Local Authorities: Partnerships for sustainable cities 2021 that has been published on 8th March.</p> <p>XXX is an internationally operating company focused on climate solutions and with offices in 22 countries, including countries eligible under the call criteria (Annex L). Our headquarters are in Switzerland, though, which is not listed in Annex L.</p> <p>We have been wondering if we are thus not eligible as co-applicant with a partner (city network/alliance)? Not either as contractor?</p> <p>The call fits very well to our YYY, a multi-stakeholder platform focused on climate finance for cities, we would thus like to provide and share our expertise and support cities in the crucial endeavour to integrate climate measures.</p>	<p>As set out in section 2.2.4 of the guidelines, to ensure equal treatment of applicants, the contracting authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entity(ies), an action or specific activities.</p> <p>In order to be eligible co-applicants must be established in one of the eligible countries or territories listed in Annex L to the guidelines (see section 2.1.1 of the guidelines). Switzerland is not among the eligible countries listed in Annex L; therefore, organizations established in that country can be neither applicants (lead applicants and co-applicants) nor affiliated entities under this call for proposals.</p> <p>As a reminder, contractors are subject to the procurement rules set out in Annex IV to the standard grant contract (Annex G to these guidelines).</p>
4	<p>We have read the guideline and can we have some questions about co-applicant profile?</p>	<p>Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are not among the eligible categories listed in section 2.1.1</p>

	<p>At page 10 of the guideline, it's written that "....the co-applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be a legal person and</li> <li>• be a specific type of organisation such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local Authorities (LA); or Association of Local Authorities (ALA), including city networks constituted in accordance with the legislation in force in the country; or</li> <li>- Private, public or semi-public bodies/agencies/organisations of public utility; ...."</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Can an International NGO with an office in the applicant country can be co - applicant?</p>	<p>of the guidelines; therefore, they can be neither applicants (lead applicants and co-applicants) nor affiliated entities under this call for proposals.</p> <p>Instead, NGOs can be associates or contractors under this call for proposals (see section 2.1.3).</p>
5	<p>I work for XXX Czech Republic, which is an INGO with headquarters in the Czech Republic active in development cooperation, provision of social services as well as international humanitarian aid.</p> <p>My question is specifically linked to co-applicant eligibility criteria. Page 9 of the Guidelines for Grant Applicants includes a category of "Private, public or semi-public bodies/agencies/organisations of public utility" (see also Guidelines with this section highlighted).</p> <p>Does this provision mean that non-profit non-governmental organizations such as XXX are eligible as co-applicants in this call?</p>	<p>As set out in section 2.2.4 of the guidelines, to ensure equal treatment of applicants, the contracting authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entity(ies), an action or specific activities.</p> <p>Please refer to answer 4 above, regarding the eligibility of NGOs under this call for proposals.</p>
6	<p>We are a civil Society organization registered in Germany as a non-profit organization. We would like to know explicitly if CSOs are eligible to be a co-applicant for the above call.</p> <p>If yes, can we participate in more than one call under different lots as co-applicant?</p>	<p>Please refer to answer 4 above, regarding the eligibility of NGOs under this call for proposals.</p> <p>As regards the number of applications and grants per applicants and affiliated entities, the guidelines state that "<i>an organisation can only submit one proposal either as lead applicant or as co-applicant/affiliated entity under this call for proposals</i>" (page 16). Should this be the case, the Evaluation Committee will only consider the first proposal arrived (based on the date and hour of submission) and any other proposal will be rejected.</p>
7	<p>The XXX would like to participate at this call of proposal as lead applicant but we have doubts about our eligibility as a Local Authority.</p> <p>XXX is public institution attached to the Regional Government of Andalusia (Spain), more specifically to the Regional Ministry of Social Policies.</p> <p>The regulatory statutes establishes its legal</p>	<p>As set out in section 2.2.4 of the guidelines, to ensure equal treatment of applicants, the contracting authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entity(ies), an action or specific activities.</p>

	<p>personality as a public agency of the Regional Government of Andalusia, with its own legal personality.</p> <p>The composition of its government bodies is based on a Presidency, Governing Council and a managing director.</p> <p>The Presidency is assigned to the person appointed as Regional Minister of the Social Policies Regional Minister. And the members of the Governing Council belongs them all to the Government of Andalusia.</p> <p>We would therefore be very grateful is you could helps us to dispel our uncertainty.</p>	
8	<p>An NGO could only be an associate or also a co applicant?</p> <p>In order to be eligible for a grant, the co-applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be a legal person and</li> <li>• be a specific type of organisation such as: Private, public or semi-public bodies/agencies/organisations of public utility; - here all the actors regard organisations of public utility?</li> </ul>	<p>Please refer to answer 4 above, regarding the eligibility of NGOs under this call for proposals.</p> <p>In order to be eligible under this call for proposals, co-applicants must satisfy all eligibility criteria provided in the corresponding paragraphs in section 2.1.1 of the guidelines.</p>
9	<p>I need some clarifications regarding eligibility of applicants and co-applicants. I'm helping some local authorities in preparing a proposal for this call. They are thinking of the following arrangement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Lead applicant: the Association of Women Municipal Council Members from the beneficiary country, registered and linked to the country's Association of Municipal Governments.</li> <li>– Co-applicant 1: a registered NGO from Spain.</li> <li>– Co-applicant 2: a local authority from the beneficiary country.</li> <li>– Co-applicant 3: a UN agency</li> </ul> <p>Is this arrangement correct?</p> <p>Is the co-applicant 2 mandatory?</p> <p>Can the UN agency participate as co-applicant?</p>	<p>As set out in section 2.2.4 of the guidelines, in the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the European Commission cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, a co-applicant, an affiliated entity, an action or specific activities.</p> <p>Regarding the eligibility of NGOs under this call for proposals, please refer to answer 4 above.</p> <p>As a reminder, in order to be eligible under this call for proposals, lead applicants and co-applicants must satisfy all eligibility criteria provided in the corresponding paragraphs in section 2.1.1 of the guidelines.</p> <p>Concerning the composition of the partnership, as detailed in section 2.1.1 of the guidelines (pages 8-9), to be eligible under this call for proposals the partnership must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) at least one co-applicant;</li> <li>2) at least one Local Authority either as lead applicant or as co-applicant.</li> <li>3) at least one applicant (either as lead applicant or co-applicant) established in a</li> </ol>

		<p>EU Member State and at least one applicant (either as lead applicant or co-applicant) established in the beneficiary country where the action will take place (see section 2.1.4 “Location”).</p> <p>Please remember that <i>“a partnership should be composed in such a way as to allow the achievement of the project objectives in the most effective and cost-efficient manner”</i> (page 10). In addition, as detailed at page 10 of the guidelines, the choice of co-applicants must be justified in the proposal as part of the project design and will be taken into account in point 2.1 of the concept note evaluation grid as well as in point 1.4 (see section 2.3 of these guidelines). The composition of the partnership will be evaluated in point 4.3 and 2.4 of the full application evaluation grid (see section 2.3 of these guidelines).</p>
10	Do lead applicants have to be local authorities / public officials of a EU member state, or can EU-based NGOs and UN agencies also be lead applicants?	Please refer to answer 9 above.
11	Are the UN agencies eligible to be co-applicants?	Please refer to answer 9 above.
12	Are european NGOs (duly registared) eligible to participate as co-applicants?	Please refer to answer 4 above, regarding the eligibility of NGOs under this call for proposals.
13	From the notice, it is stated that the Call is to promote urban development. My question is, would rural Municipalities be eligible to apply?	<p>As set out in section 2.2.4 of the guidelines, in the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the European Commission cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, a co-applicant, an affiliated entity, an action or specific activities.</p> <p>Please refer to section 2.1.1 of the guidelines for the eligibility of applicants and footnote 7 for the definition of Local Authority under this call for proposals.</p>
14	<p>I’m xxx, XXX México, a Mexican NGO. We want to submit this call with the local authority YYY of Mexico City as co-applicant.</p> <p>We have some questions about this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Could XXX México apply this call as NGO?</li> <li>2. Who European organization manage the execution of the project?</li> <li>3. Could you accept contributions in kind as eligible cost?</li> <li>4. Finally, since 2020, for Law Mexican NGOs cannot recover VAT, could we negotiate that</li> </ol>	<p>As set out in section 2.2.4 of the guidelines, in the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the European Commission cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, a co-applicant, an affiliated entity, an action or specific activities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regarding the eligibility of NGOs under this call for proposals, please refer to answer 4 above.</li> </ol> <p>Organisations established in Mexico and satisfying the eligibility criteria set out in section 2.1 are eligible under this call for proposals only where the country itself is the</p>

	<p>you accept the VAT as eligible cost?</p>	<p>beneficiary of the action (see Annex L (c) ).</p> <p>2. It is up to the partnership to decide the role of each applicant in the implementation of the action.</p> <p>If awarded the grant contract, the lead applicant will become the beneficiary identified as the coordinator in the grant contract (“Special conditions - Annex G to these guidelines). The coordinator is the main interlocutor of the contracting authority. It represents and acts on behalf of any other co-beneficiary (if any) and coordinate the design and implementation of the action. The role of the coordinator is clearly defined in article 1.6 of the General conditions (Annex II to Annex G).</p> <p>As requested in the guidelines, <i>“the role of each member of the partnership (lead and co-applicants) must be clearly explained in the proposal (description of the action). It is strongly recommended that the lead applicant and its co-applicants draw up an agreement defining their partnership as well as their respective technical and financial roles and obligations. A clear allocation of responsibilities and costs will contribute to the partnership’s success”</i> (page 10).</p> <p>3. As stated in section 2.1.5 of the guidelines (page 17), contributions in kind may not be treated as co-financing under this call for proposals.</p> <p>4. <i>“Duties, taxes and charges, including VAT, related to the purposes of the action, paid and not recoverable by the beneficiary(ies)”</i> are eligible under this call for proposals, provided the beneficiary(ies) (or, where applicable, its affiliated entity(ies)) can show they cannot reclaim them (see Article 14.2 (h) of the General conditions and Annex J to the guidelines°.</p> <p>Where the beneficiary can show it cannot reclaim taxes, they may be eligible and should be included in each relevant heading. Taxes that can be reclaimed are not considered as eligible nor accepted costs.</p>
15	<p>Within the EuropeAid/171273/DH/ACT/Multi guidelines in page 8 Local Authorities» refers to public institutions with legal personality, component of the State structure, below the level of central government and accountable to citizens. Local Authorities are usually composed of a deliberative or policymaking body (council or assembly) and an executive body (the Mayor or other executive officer), directly or indirectly</p>	<p>Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are not among the eligible categories listed in section 2.1.1 of the guidelines; therefore, they can be neither applicants (lead applicants and co-applicants) nor affiliated entities under this call for proposals.</p> <p>Instead, CSOs can be associates or contractors under this call for proposals (see section 2.1.3).</p>

	<p>elected or selected at local level. Local authorities encompass a large variety of sub-national levels and branches of government, i.e. municipalities, communities, districts, counties, provinces, regions etc...</p> <p>Under this definition, CSO are excluded from lead applicants and can only participate as co applicants, associates or contractors, we would appreciate your confirmation in the sense to be able to define the roles and responsibilities within the consortium.</p>	
16	<p>Do you confirm that Burundi is an eligible country? (or according to the art.96 of Cotonou Agreement, Burundi authorities should not receive direct financing from the EU?).</p>	<p>Burundi is eligible as action location under lot 1 'Sub-Saharan Africa'. Nevertheless, on the basis of the Council Decision (EU) 2016/394 of 14 March 2016 concerning the conclusion of consultations with the Republic of Burundi under Article 96 of the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, "financial support or disbursements of funds (including budgetary support) directly benefiting the Burundian administration or institutions are suspended". <b>Therefore, entities corresponding to this typology are not eligible.</b></p> <p>Indeed, in the above council decision, the Council states that "<i>the European Union will continue its support for the people of Burundi. It will continue to finance ongoing contracts and emergency operations, where such measures provide direct support to the local population and civil society and relate to the fight against poverty and access to basic services [...]</i> However, <i>financial support or disbursements of funds (including budgetary support) directly benefiting the Burundian administration or institutions are suspended</i>".</p> <p>In addition, as per section 1.2 of the guidelines the <b>global objective</b> of the Programme "Partnership for sustainable cities" is to promote integrated urban development through partnerships built among Local Authorities of the EU Member States and partner countries in accordance with the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development.</p> <p><u>Partnerships will support Local Authorities from partner countries to address sustainable urban development through capacity building and service-delivery.</u> Decentralised cooperation and peer-to-peer exchanges of Local Authorities are at the heart of this approach.</p>

		In conclusion, although Burundi is one of the countries eligible for Union funding under the DCI thematic programmes (Regulation EU No 233/2014), a partnership which includes Burundian local authorities <b>would not be eligible</b> under this call for proposals, according to the Council Decision (EU) 2016/394 of 14th March 2016.
<b>Eligibility of the action/activities</b>		
<b>17</b>	<p>We have been informed about the above mentioned grant by our parent organization XXX and would very much like to submit a project. But as we went through the eligibility annex, we saw that our country, Turkey, is not listed anywhere.</p> <p>Are we interpreting it wrong are we left out on purpose? I would like to know if there is an explanation for that.</p>	Benefiting from other financial instruments, Turkey is not among the eligible countries as action location under this call for proposals. Likewise, organizations established in that country can be neither applicants (lead applicants and co-applicants) nor affiliated entities under this call for proposals.
<b>18</b>	<p>I read the article on the website of our region <a href="https://xxxx">https://xxxx</a></p> <p>I would like to propose this idea about my city. See attachment (In Italian).</p> <p>It is a redevelopment of a central building in my city to be used for tourism activities.</p>	<p>As set out in section 2.2.4 of the guidelines, in the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the European Commission cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, a co-applicant, an affiliated entity, an action or specific activities.</p> <p>To be eligible for co-financing, actions under this call must comply with the objectives and the priorities of this call for proposals described in section 1.2 of the guidelines. Applicants are invited to present all activities they consider necessary in order to achieve the objectives of this call for proposals and to obtain tangible results in the context where the selected projects will be implemented. For more details about the eligibility of the actions under this call for proposals, please refer to section 1.2 and 2.1.4 of the guidelines.</p> <p>As a reminder, in order to be eligible under this call for proposals, lead applicants and co-applicants must satisfy all eligibility criteria provided in the corresponding paragraphs in section 2.1.1 of the guidelines.</p>
<b>19</b>	<p>Republic of Turkey XXX, will be pleased to informed by European Commission about further questions. While we read guidance of mentioned call at the subject that "Local Authorities: Partnerships for Sustainable Cities", we have not confirm on the questions; Are Turkey eligible country? Which region and lot number applicable for Turkey?</p>	Turkey is not eligible as action location under this call for proposals.
<b>20</b>	We would like to ask the confirmation that for the	West Bank and Gaza Strip are not eligible as action



	current call for proposal 2021, Palestine /West Banks Gaza Strip is not admitted as eligible country for the action EuropeAid/171273/DH/ACT/Multi?	location under this call for proposals.
<b>Other questions</b>		
<b>21</b>	Nous souhaitons vivement participer à ce programme de l'UE. Y-at-il une version en Français ?	The guidelines for this call for proposals are published in English only. Applicants must apply in English (see sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.5 of the guidelines).
<b>22</b>	<p>As this call is already in its the 3rd phase in the on-going deadline of 23/04/2021, would it be possible to get from you a list of the countries, beneficiary entities and general title of the actions retained in the 1st and 2nd phases?!</p> <p>This request is justified by the former phases in an attempt to avoid repeating countries and entities that have already benefited from former phases.</p>	<p>The list of grants awarded in the framework of the previous calls for proposals aiming at promoting partnerships for sustainable cities among Local Authorities of the EU Member States and partner countries are available on the website of DG International Partnerships at the following links:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome&amp;nbPubliList=15&amp;orderby=upd&amp;orderbyad=Desc&amp;searchtype=RS&amp;aofr=161146">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome&amp;nbPubliList=15&amp;orderby=upd&amp;orderbyad=Desc&amp;searchtype=RS&amp;aofr=161146</a></li> <li>2) <a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome&amp;nbPubliList=15&amp;orderby=upd&amp;orderbyad=Desc&amp;searchtype=RS&amp;aofr=167744">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome&amp;nbPubliList=15&amp;orderby=upd&amp;orderbyad=Desc&amp;searchtype=RS&amp;aofr=167744</a></li> </ol>