



Questions and Answers for the (RfA) # CEP-SSG-03 Collected Between September 21 and October 10, 2018

1. Can a foreign organization that has a registered branch in Macedonia apply for Strategic Support Grants?

Please refer to Eligibility Criteria section in the RfA: CSOs legally registered in Macedonia are eligible to submit proposals in response to this RfA. Please refer to Eligibility Criteria 1) specifically: Be a Macedonian CSO, meaning that it is managed by a governing body the majority of who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of Macedonia.

2. In the Funding priorities it is stated that CSO should have a governance structure that ensures proper rotation of leadership and delegation of power, including, at least, a Board of Directors, a Chairperson, and an Executive Director. We do have governing structure consisting of an Assembly, Executive Board, and President, does this kind of governing structure satisfy the criteria?

The bullet point that you are referring to in Funding Priorities of the RfA ends with the following sentence: If this criterion is not met, the applicant must submit a proposed reform process that will work towards meeting these standards. You will also notice in continuation the following relevant bullet point in the Funding Priorities: Are willing to commit to substantial capacity development of their CSO with assistance by CEP. Please note that in the Application Form, Section E (Organizational structure) you need to fully address these issues.

3. Can one CSO apply in partnership and what are the conditions if this is possible?

The SSGs are not designed for partnerships although they do not object to cooperation between CSOs. The applying CSO is the only one evaluated for the eligibility and other criteria as the only potential receiver of the grant. Please note that sub-awards are not allowed under this RfA. In addition, during October 2018, CEP plans to issue the RfA for Partnership Grants which is tailored particularly for alliances of organizations.

4. Can we apply for the RfA as a CSO that is registered for one year now?

Please refer to Eligibility Criteria section in the RfA: CSOs legally registered in Macedonia are eligible to submit proposals in response to this RfA. Please refer to Eligibility Criteria 2) specifically: Have at least three years of operational experience in the priority areas of this RfA. The SSG RfA is open for organizations that have been registered and are operational for three years, by the time the deadline for this RfA



closes. In this regard, the applicant must have three years of operational experience by October 22, 2018.

5. **Is it allowed that two CSOs apply, one as a lead applicant and another as a partner for delivering part of the project activities? Is it necessary to find a partner from another country or partners should be from Macedonia?**

Please see answer 3 from above. In addition, CSOs that apply for SSGs are free to envision establishing partnerships to achieve their objectives with SSG funding and technical assistance.

6. **Do SSGs offer support to informal social enterprises such as photo booths, private companies or are these grants designed for CSOs only?**

Please see answer 1 and 4 from above.

7. **We are currently implementing a project financed by CEP through Youth Engagement Support grants, due to be closed by December 2018, while the new project, potentially to be funded through SSGs, would start in February 2019. Does this mean that we can apply for the SSG this year or our application will be declined because of the project we are currently implementing?**

As specified on page 3 of the RfA, CEP will not accept or review applications by:

- Lead organizations that are currently implementing CEP's Partnership Grants;
- Current recipients of CEP's SSGs.

8. **Should all the supporting documents including the annual financial report, the registration document and the letters of support and/or Memorandum of support (MoU) be in English?**

The official language of CEP is English and all application documents are expected to be in English. However, if you cannot obtain the original document in English, we would appreciate if you could provide us with an unofficial translation of the document in English.

9. **Is February 01, 2019, an obligatory date for starting with activities under the grant?**

As defined in the RfA on page 7 and the cover page of the Application Form, CEP plans to sign grant agreements with the successful applicants by February 01, 2019.

10. **Are the MoUs and letters of support needed as general documents covering all project activities or they should be signed for concrete project activities?**

General supporting documents that show intention for cooperation are welcomed and will be taken into consideration. However, if some of the project activities are dependent on cooperation with external parties, then it would be better to have more specific Letters of support, emphasizing the manner of cooperation in the implementation of specific project activities and agreed responsibilities of both parties with timelines where applicable.



11. Will think tank organizations be favored under this RfA and will the permanent membership be taken as an advantage?

In accordance with the Funding Priorities of the RfA (page 3), neither think tanks nor CSOs with permanent membership will be favored in any way.

12. Can employees from other CSOs or private companies be part of the project staff team under the proposed grant application? Should they be full time employees?

Please refer to the Funding Priorities of the RfA, following relevant bullet point: Allocate relevant resources for the needs of the CSO, and are willing to commit for the successful implementation of this project at least one full time staff member of the CSO. Additionally, please consult Annex B – Budget Guidelines.

13. Can media be paid in order to promote proposed project activities?

It is not prohibited to promote project activities via media. However, CEP encourages the Applicants to propose a variety of different activities that will promote their results and objectives.

14. Can private companies be partners in the project?

Please see answer 3 from above.

15. Can you explain what is expected from the applicants in regard to mobilizing external resources?

According to the criteria defined in the section evaluation process and criteria on page 5, mobilizing external resources will be evaluated with 20% under Technical Approach criteria. CEP will be evaluating the extent to which applicants can demonstrate existing or likely co-funding from external (i.e., central government institutions and/or municipal level institutions, private sector, community) sources or own-sources (but not from other donor sources). Also, CEP will evaluate the level and nature of proposed actions to ensure cooperation and coordination among donors, CSOs, public institutions, media, private sector and citizens to better achieve the application's Program Description's goal.

16. If one of the project activities is related to establishing a social enterprise and during project implementation the Law on Social Enterprises is not adopted, what will happen with the project?

CEP will closely monitor the implementation of the project activities of successful applicants and will, together with the grantees, make corrective actions in project activities that reflect on the changes in government policies and general context in the country.



17. Are the costs for full time employees and rent eligible under this RfA?

Please see answer 12 from above. As for the rental costs, CEP allows costs for rental of office space as well as other associated utilities costs be covered under this RfA. Utilities include electricity, heat, and water. Amounts for rent and utilities should be shown separately.

18. The budget notes specify that “The use of CEP’s funds for renovations or improvements to buildings, land, or equipment is prohibited”, but the budget has a separate budget category titled *Equipment*. Are the costs for equipment and investment in premises for production and/or processing within a social entrepreneurship initiative eligible? If yes, may we propose to purchase equipment that will be also used by partner social entrepreneurs (e.g. handicraft artisans)?

Please consult Annex B – Budget Guidelines. In general, the category Equipment can include purchases of equipment which has to be used to support the project activities specified in the proposal. Equipment is defined as any tangible property having a useful life of more than one year. Partners specified under the project proposal can use the equipment purchased by the Grantee upon previous agreement and in line with the project activities.

19. Under the priority area no.3 Promoting and supporting social entrepreneurship and social enterprises, is it allowed to propose activities which support local initiatives by other social entrepreneurs?

Under the priority area no.3 Promoting and supporting social entrepreneurship and social enterprises, in the illustrative activities, it is stated that the Applicants can propose a project that will support the advancement and expansion of existing social enterprises that have a proven track record of success.