



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG

Employment and Social Governance  
**Social dialogue**

**BUDGET HEADING 04 03 01 08**

**Industrial relations and social dialogue**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**Support for social dialogue**

**VP/2016/001**

Any questions should be sent by email to: [empl-vp-social-dialogue@ec.europa.eu](mailto:empl-vp-social-dialogue@ec.europa.eu)

To ensure a rapid response to requests for information, applicants are invited to send their queries in English, French or German where possible

The text is available in English.

Applicants are invited to read the present document in conjunction with the Financial Guidelines for Applicants for this call as well as the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and their rules of application:

[http://ec.europa.eu/budget/biblio/documents/regulations/regulations\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/biblio/documents/regulations/regulations_en.cfm)

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## Important points of attention

Applicants should carefully read the entire text of this call for proposals in order to ensure compliance of their application with all requirements. Particular attention is drawn to the following provisions:

- Applicants are strongly invited to take the **requirements described in section 2.3** of the call fully into account when drafting their proposals, as this will contribute to their quality.
- The **lead applicant** must be a **social partner organisation** at European, national or regional level. If this is not the case, the application will not be considered eligible and will be rejected.
- If a social partner organisation representing workers is the lead applicant, the proposal must have **genuine involvement, i.e. as co-applicant or associate organisation, of a social partner organisation representing employers**. If this is not the case, the application will not be considered eligible and will be rejected.
- Proposals submitted by a national or regional social partner organisation must have **genuine involvement, i.e. as co-applicant or associate organisation, from a European-level social partner organisation**. If this is not the case, the application will not be considered eligible and will be rejected.
- Projects will not be considered for funding if they do not obtain the minimum threshold for the following criteria (see section 9 of the call):
  - the extent to which the action meets the objectives and priorities of the call for proposals;
  - the extent to which the action has a genuine transnational dimension;
  - the extent to which the action contributes to the priorities, activities or results of European social dialogue.

**Applicants should consider carefully whether their proposed action can be expected to receive a sufficient score for these criteria before submitting a request for funding.**

- Applicants should use the **checklist** included in section 14 of the call in order to verify completeness of their file. Section 14 also includes additional instructions regarding the **format and content of certain documents**, including the detailed work programme and the budget explanation.
- Proposals that aim mainly at **improving expertise in the field of industrial relations** are **not covered** by this call for proposals.

## 1. INTRODUCTION – BACKGROUND

### 1.1. Legal base

In line with the remarks in the budget of the European Union, budget heading 04 03 01 08 is intended to cover grants for **promoting social dialogue at cross-industry and sectoral level** in accordance with Article 154 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), and for developing European social dialogue in its different dimensions of **information exchange, consultation, negotiation and joint action**. This call will therefore be used to finance consultations, meetings, negotiations and other actions designed to achieve these objectives and to promote actions outlined in the European Commission's Communication on *The European social dialogue, a force for innovation and change* (COM(2002)341), the Communication on *Partnership for change in an enlarged Europe – Enhancing the contribution of European social dialogue* (COM(2004)557) and the Commission Staff Working Document on the *Functioning and potential of European sectoral social dialogue* (SEC(2010)964).

The measures should help the social partner organisations (representatives of management and labour) to contribute to addressing the overarching EU employment and social policy challenges as laid down in particular in:

- the Commission Communication *On steps towards Completing Economic and Monetary Union* (COM(2015)600);
- the Annual Growth Survey, the Joint Employment Report and the recommendations addressed to the Member States in the context of the European Semester;
- the Political Guidelines presented by Jean-Claude Juncker in the Agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change and the Commission Work Programmes.

The budget heading can be used to finance actions involving representatives of the social partners from the Candidate Countries<sup>1</sup>. It is also intended to promote equal participation of women and men in the decision-making bodies of both trade unions and employers' organisations. These last two components are cross-cutting.

## 2. OBJECTIVES – PRIORITIES – EXPECTED RESULTS – ACTIVITIES

### 2.1. Objectives – Priorities – Expected results

Objectives of this call include measures and initiatives related to the adaptation of social dialogue to changes in employment and work related challenges, such as addressing modernisation of the labour market, job creation and job matching, quality of work, anticipation, preparation and management of change and restructuring, digitalisation of the economy and society, the greening of the economy, flexicurity, skills, (intra-EU) labour mobility, migration, youth employment, health and safety at work, modernisation

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<sup>1</sup> Where reference is made to the Candidate Countries in this call for proposals, it concerns the Candidate Countries at the time of the deadline for the submission of applications of this call for proposals [http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/countries/check-current-status/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/countries/check-current-status/index_en.htm).

of social protection systems, reconciliation of work and family life, gender equality, action in the field of anti-discrimination, active ageing, healthier and longer working lives, active inclusion and decent work.

Projects proposed **jointly** by employers' and workers' organisations which aim at implementing (parts of) the **work programme of European social dialogue committees**, as well as measures to foster the implementation of European social dialogue outcomes, reinforce their impact and visibility, and support follow-up and reporting are a **high priority**.

Strengthening **synergies** and exchanges between European sectoral social dialogue committees and/or between the sectoral committees and the cross-industry level, including through projects developing a **multi-sectoral approach** on themes of common interest, is also considered a priority.

Actions are expected to contribute to the **priorities and activities of European social dialogue**, including those that form part of the **European Commission's commitment to strengthen social dialogue**. In that context, particular emphasis is put on the following objectives:

- strengthening the **involvement of social partners in the European Semester** and enhancing their **contribution to EU policy making**;
- building and reinforcing the **capacity** of national (cross-industry and/or sectoral) social partners to engage in national social dialogue and to participate in and contribute to European social dialogue, in particular in those Member States where social dialogue is underdeveloped<sup>2</sup>.

Measures which contribute to addressing the employment and social and economic dimensions of EU priorities relating to the recovery from the **crisis**, taking into account the need for social convergence between Member States, and to reaching the objectives and targets of the **Europe 2020 Strategy and its flagship initiatives**, will also be particularly welcome.

The same goes for measures to support the European social partners and social dialogue committees in their contribution to **impact assessment** of the employment and social dimensions of EU initiatives.

Applications will be examined and selected taking account of the remarks in the EU budget, the criteria laid down in this document and the principle of balanced support.

Access for people with disabilities should be guaranteed for measures funded under this call for proposals.

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<sup>2</sup> National capacity-building activities which could be funded under the European Social Fund (Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 on the European Social Fund, Article 6.2) are not eligible.

## 2.2. Type of activities to be funded

The following categories of actions are targeted:

- measures to prepare European social dialogue, such as preparatory surveys, meetings and conferences;
- measures regarded as part of social dialogue within the meaning of Articles 154 and 155 TFEU, such as negotiations, preparatory meetings for negotiations or activities relating to the implementation of negotiated agreements and other negotiated outcomes;
- measures to implement the European social partners' work programmes (such as the organisation of round tables, exchanges of experience and networks of key actors);
- measures to disseminate, promote, monitor and evaluate European social dialogue activities and outcomes, e.g. through European or national events, peer learning or reviews, studies and (paper or electronic) publications (including the translation);
- measures to improve the coordination, functioning and effectiveness of European social dialogue, including through the identification and development of joint approaches by the social dialogue committees, such as the exchange of good practice and related joint training events;
- measures to strengthen the capacity of social partners to contribute to European social dialogue with particular attention to Central and Eastern European Member States and Candidate Countries<sup>3</sup>, e.g. through information and training seminars aiming at developing legal expertise or organisational/administrative skills, or at expanding membership and representativeness;
- measures to further develop and strengthen the membership of European social partner organisations;
- measures by social partners which contribute to the process of strengthening social dialogue initiated by the European Commission, with regard in particular to the involvement of social partners in the European Semester and their contribution to EU policy making;
- measures by social partners which contribute to the employment and social and economic dimensions of the Europe 2020 Strategy, including the monitoring and analysis of its impact on labour markets;
- measures to support the contributions that European social partners and social dialogue committees provide to impact assessment of the employment and social dimensions of EU initiatives.

Measures that aim mainly at improving expertise in the field of industrial relations through analysis and research and by promoting the exchange of information and experience among relevant actors, are **not** covered by this call for proposals. This type of actions will be funded under a separate call for proposals.

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<sup>3</sup> National capacity-building activities which could be funded under the European Social Fund (Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 on the European Social Fund, Article 6.2) are not eligible.

### 2.3. Other elements to be taken into account

When drafting the proposal, applicants are invited to pay particular attention to the following elements:

- The proposal should provide a clear explanation of the rationale and problem definition/analysis underpinning the proposed action, as well as the specific contribution of the action to the objectives of the call for proposals and its expected impact.
- In case of recurrent applications by the same applicant on similar or related topics, the added value of the new project proposal as compared to ongoing and previous actions<sup>4</sup> should be clearly explained.
- The choice of organisations involved and countries covered should be duly explained and justified as regards their relevance towards the specific objectives of the action.

Taking account of beneficiaries' interest, the Commission may organise a **networking day** in Brussels for beneficiaries under the 2016 call (date to be defined). Applicants must therefore ensure that the travel, daily subsistence allowances and accommodation costs for up to 2 persons – the Project Manager and possibly the Financial Manager – to attend this meeting are included in their proposed project budget. If the applicant fails to do this, the Commission will not be able to fund the beneficiary's participation in the networking day.

### 3. TIMETABLE

	Stages	Date or period
a)	Publication of the call	April 2016
b)	Deadline for submitting proposals	30 June 2016
c)	Evaluation period (indicative)	Until end September 2016
d)	Information to applicants (indicative)	From beginning of November <sup>5</sup>
e)	Signature of the grant agreement (indicative)	From mid-November <sup>6</sup>

#### 3.1. Starting date and duration of the projects

The actual starting date of the action will be the first day of the month following the date when the last of the two parties signs the grant agreement.

<sup>4</sup> Including projects funded under other budget headings.

<sup>5</sup> And in any case no later than 6 months after the submission deadline.

<sup>6</sup> And in any case no later than 3 months after the date of information to applicants.

Since the actual starting date may not correspond to the start date of the action that applicants have set in their application file, it is advisable to number the months in the work programme instead of indicating the precise name of the months.

The Commission welcomes in particular projects that provide for a full project cycle, including preparatory, implementation and dissemination, follow-up and reporting activities. The indicative duration of projects is 24 months.

#### **4. AVAILABLE BUDGET**

The total budget earmarked for the EU co-financing of projects under this call is estimated at **EUR 9 300 000**.

As an indication, the requested EU grants are expected to be between EUR 150 000 and EUR 500 000.

The Commission reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available.

##### **4.1. Co-financing rate**

Under this call for proposals, the EU grant may not exceed 90 % of the total eligible costs of the action.

In derogation from the previous paragraph, the European Commission may decide to finance up to 95% of the total cost of social dialogue actions involving negotiations in accordance with Articles 154 and 155 TFEU, meetings to prepare for these negotiations (second bullet point under targeted measures), or joint social partner actions relating to the implementation of the agreements resulting from these negotiations.

The applicants must guarantee their co-financing of the remaining amount covered by the applicants' own resources or from other sources other than the European Union budget.

#### **5. ADMISSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- Applications must be sent no later than the deadline for submission referred to in section 3.
- Applications must be submitted using the electronic submission system available at <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/swim>, and by sending a signed, printed version of the application form and its annexes by post or courier service (see section 12).

Failure to comply with the above requirements will lead to the rejection of the application.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their project proposal in English, French or German in order to facilitate the treatment of the proposals and speed up the evaluation process.

## 6. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### 6.1. Eligibility of the applicants (lead and co-applicants) and affiliated entities<sup>7</sup>

To be eligible:

- The *lead applicant* must be a social partner organisation at European, national or regional level;
- The lead applicant must have its registered office in one of the EU Member States;
- Co-applicants<sup>8</sup> must have their registered office in one of the EU Member States or the Candidate Countries<sup>9</sup>.
- Applicants must be properly constituted and registered legal persons. In application of Article 131 of the Financial Regulation, social partner organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met.

Legal entities having a legal or capital link with applicants, which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation and which satisfy the eligibility criteria, may take part in the action as **affiliated entities**, and may declare eligible costs.

For that purpose, applicants shall identify such affiliated entities in the application form.

### 6.2. Eligibility of actions

To be eligible, *actions* must:

- Have the involvement of applicants, affiliated entities or associate organisations<sup>10</sup> from more than one Member State and/or Candidate Country in the case of projects which are not submitted by a European-level social partner organisation;
- Have genuine involvement, i.e. as co-applicant or associate organisation, from a European-level social partner organisation<sup>11</sup>, if the proposal is submitted by a national or regional social partner organisation;

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<sup>7</sup> See section 2 of the Financial Guidelines for definitions.

<sup>8</sup> The same condition applies to affiliated entities – as do the other eligibility and non-exclusion criteria that apply to co-applicants.

<sup>9</sup> In derogation from this requirement, international organisations, such as UN agencies, active in the fields of social dialogue and/or industrial relations, whose registered headquarters are outside the EU Member States, are also eligible.

<sup>10</sup> See section 2 of the Financial Guidelines for definitions.  
Letters of commitment must be submitted from each co-applicant, affiliated entity that they are willing to participate in the project with a brief description of their role and indicating any financial contribution as applicable, and from associate organisations that they are willing to participate in the project with a brief description of their role (see section 14, checklist point 4).

<sup>11</sup> These include the European social partner organisations that are consulted in accordance with Article 154 TFEU (an up-to-date list of these organisations can be found under "List of consulted organisations" on webpage <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=329&langId=en>), as well as

- If a social partner organisation representing workers is the lead applicant, have genuine involvement, i.e. as co-applicant or associate organisation, of a social partner organisation representing employers<sup>12</sup>;
- Be fully carried out in the Member States of the European Union or the Candidate Countries<sup>13</sup>.

If a co-applicant, affiliated entity or associate organisation is considered not to be eligible, this partner will be removed from the consortium and the eligibility of the modified consortium will be re-evaluated. If the modified consortium is still eligible, the application will be evaluated on that basis. In addition, the costs that are allocated to a non-eligible co-applicant or affiliated entity will be removed from the budget. If the application is accepted, the work programme will have to be adapted as appropriate.

### **6.3. Eligible activities**

The grant will finance inter alia the activities indicated in section 2.2.

The project management of the action and the role of coordinator (in case of a multi-beneficiary grant agreement) as laid down in Article II.2.3 of the grant agreement, are considered to be core activities and may not be subcontracted<sup>14</sup>.

### **6.4. Ineligible activities**

Financial support to third parties as defined in point 3 of the Financial Guidelines is not eligible under this call.

National capacity-building activities which could be funded under the European Social Fund (Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 on the European Social Fund, Article 6.2) are not eligible.

## **7. EXCLUSION CRITERIA**

Applicants (lead and co-applicants) must sign a declaration on their honour certifying that they are not in one of the situations referred to in article 106(1) and 107.1(b) and (c) of the Financial Regulation concerning exclusion and rejection from the procedure respectively, using the relevant form attached to the application form available at <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/swim/external/displayWelcome.do>.

The same exclusion criteria apply to any affiliated entities.

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other European-level social partner organisations that are not included in this list, but who are for example involved in the preparation and launch of European social dialogue at sector level.

<sup>12</sup> Chambers of Commerce and business/trade associations are as a rule not considered to be social partner organisations, unless they can demonstrate that they are involved in social dialogue.

<sup>13</sup> See section 11 for specific provisions regarding daily subsistence allowances and travel expenses.

<sup>14</sup> See section 4.2.2.3 of the Financial Guidelines for detailed information on procedures regarding subcontracting and implementing contracts.

Only proposals which comply with the requirements of the above eligibility and exclusion criteria will be considered for further evaluation.

## **8. SELECTION CRITERIA**

The applicants (lead and co-applicant) must have the financial and operational capacity to complete the activity for which funding is requested. Only organisations with the necessary financial and operational capacity may be considered for a grant.

### **8.1. Financial capacity**

Applicants (lead and co-applicants) must have access to solid and adequate funding to maintain their activities for the period of the action and to help finance it as necessary.

The ratio between the total assets in the applicants' (lead and co-applicants) balance sheet and the total budget of the project or the part of the project budget for which that organisation is responsible according to the budget in the application form, should be greater than 0.70. In addition, the Commission will take into account any other relevant information on financial capacity provided by the applicant. In this context, the Commission will in particular take account of the information provided in section F.2 of the SWIM application form and of the following supporting documents to be submitted with the application:

- Declaration on honour (including financial capacity to carry out the activity) (see section 14, checklist point 3);
- Annual balance sheets for the last financial year available (see section 14, checklist point 16);
- For action grants of EUR 750 000 or more, an audit report produced by an approved external auditor certifying the accounts for the last financial year available (see section 14, checklist point 17).

### **8.2. Operational capacity**

Applicants (lead and co-applicants) must have the operational resources (technical, management), as well as the professional competencies and appropriate qualifications to complete the proposed action. They must have a sufficient track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

When assessing the operational capacity of applicants, the Commission will in particular take account of the following elements:

- the information provided in sections F.1 of the SWIM application form on the operational structure of the lead applicant and co-applicants and on previous and current actions undertaken by them;
- The CV of the proposed project manager, showing his/her relevant professional experience (see section 14, checklist point 14);
- Declaration on honour (including operational capacity to carry out the activity) (see section 14, checklist point 3)

If the lead applicant is considered not to have the required financial or operational capacity, the application as a whole will be rejected. If a co-applicant is considered not to have the required financial or operational capacity, this co-applicant will be removed from the consortium and the application will be evaluated on that basis<sup>15</sup>. In addition, the costs that are allocated to the non-eligible co-applicant will be removed from the budget. If the application is accepted, the work programme will have to be adapted as appropriate.

## 9. AWARD CRITERIA

The proposals which fulfil the eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria will be assessed according to the following award criteria:

- i. The extent to which the action meets the objectives and priorities of the call for proposals
- ii. The extent to which the action has a genuine transnational dimension
- iii. The quality of the consortium and broader partnership, including the degree of involvement and commitment at the application stage of the social partners/stakeholders in the action<sup>16</sup>
- iv. The extent to which the action contributes to the priorities, activities or results of European social dialogue
- v. The added value, i.e. the lasting impact and/or multiplier effect<sup>17</sup> of the action<sup>18</sup>
- vi. The cost-effectiveness of the action
- vii. The arrangements to publicise the action and disseminate the results, including the quality and/or innovativeness of dissemination plans
- viii. The overall quality, clarity and completeness of the proposal and budget explanation

When assessing the proposals according to the abovementioned award criteria, the following **method** will be applied:

- Applications with a score below 50% for criteria i, ii or iv will not be considered for award.
- Applications with an overall score of less than 60% will not be considered for award.

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<sup>15</sup> This includes a re-evaluation of the eligibility of the modified consortium.

<sup>16</sup> Independent consultants, conference organisers, etc. must not be included as co-applicants. See chapter 4.2.2.3 Costs of services of the Financial Guidelines.

<sup>17</sup> The multiplier effect refers to how the project and its results will promote change in other fields, such as geographical, sectoral and thematic.

<sup>18</sup> The Commission also reserves the right when assessing proposals to take into account the effectiveness and added value of previous or ongoing projects undertaken by the applicant with European Union funding.

- Taking account of the budget available for this call for proposals, the proposals with the highest overall evaluation scores will be selected for award.

**Cost estimates** should be reasonable, justified and comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency (see also section 14). It should be noted that the cost-effectiveness of actions will be evaluated on the basis of the proposed budget. The Commission reserves the right to make corrections and/or cut non-eligible expenditure from the proposed budget, but it will not make adjustments in order to improve cost-effectiveness of proposals.

## 10. LEGAL COMMITMENTS

In the event of a grant awarded by the Commission, a grant agreement, drawn up in euro and detailing the conditions and level of funding, will be sent to the beneficiary, or to the coordinator in the case of multi-beneficiary grant agreements.

The 2 copies of the original agreement must be signed by the beneficiary, or the coordinator in the case of multi-beneficiary grant agreements, and returned to the Commission immediately. The Commission will sign it last.

A model grant agreement is published on the Europa website under the relevant call: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=629&langId=en&callId=477>.

Please note that the award of a grant does not establish an entitlement for subsequent years.

## 11. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Details on financial provisions are laid out in the Financial Guidelines for Applicants (Annex I to the call) and the model grant agreement, both published on the Europa website under the relevant call:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=629&langId=en&callId=477>.

### *Specific provisions*

- Where the value of a foreseen **procurement contract exceeds EUR 60 000**, the applicant must provide with the grant application a copy of the draft tender specifications. To assist applicants, a model for tender specifications is included in Annex II to this call. Important additional information concerning procurement can be found in the Financial Guidelines (section 4.2.2.3). The draft tender specifications should be submitted in English, French or German.

In addition, the applicant will have to be able to prove, if requested, that they have sought bids from at least five different tenderers, including proof that they have published the call for tender or invitation to tender at least on their website and provide d a detailed description of the selection procedure.

This requirement does not apply to public authorities which are already governed by a system of public procurement rules.

- As regards **daily subsistence allowances and travel expenses**, only those related to participants and speakers travelling between EU Member States and/or Candidate countries will be accepted as eligible costs.

This provision does not apply to staff of international organisations, such as UN agencies, who are invited by the beneficiary to participate in a project event as a speaker/expert, including where the international organisation is an associate organisation to the project, or where the international organisation is a co-beneficiary in the project.

## 12. PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

The procedure to submit proposals electronically is explained in point 14 of the "Financial Guidelines for Applicants" (Annex I to this call). Before starting, please read carefully the SWIM user manual:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/calls/pdf/swim\\_manual\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/calls/pdf/swim_manual_en.pdf).

Once the application form is filled in, applicants must submit it **both electronically and in hard copy**, before the deadline set in section 3 above.

The SWIM electronic application form is available until midnight on the day of the submission deadline. Since the applicants must first submit the form electronically, and then print, sign and send it by post service or hand delivery by the submission deadline, it is the **applicant's responsibility to ensure that the appropriate postal or courier services are locally available on the day of the deadline**.

The hard copy of the proposal must be duly signed and sent in **2 copies** (one marked "original" and one marked "copy"), including all documents listed in the checklist in section 14, by the deadline (the postmark or the express courier receipt date serving as proof) to the following address:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>European Commission</b> <b>Call for proposals VP/2016/001</b> <b>DG EMPL/A.2, J-54 – 01/004</b> <b>B-1049 Brussels</b> <b>Belgium</b></p>
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Please send your proposal by **registered post, express courier service or by hand delivery only**. Proof of posting or express courier receipt should be kept as it could be requested by the European Commission in cases of doubt regarding the date of submission.

**Hand-delivered proposals** must be received by the European Commission **before 4 p.m.** on the last day for submission at the following address:

**European Commission**  
**Central Mail Service<sup>19</sup>**  
**Call for proposals VP/2016/001 – DG EMPL/A.2**  
**Avenue du Bourget 1**  
**B-1140 Evere**  
**Belgium**

At that time the European Commission's Mail Service will provide a signed receipt which should be conserved as proof of delivery.

**If an applicant submits more than one proposal, each proposal must be submitted separately.**

Additional documents sent by post, by fax or by electronic mail after the deadlines mentioned above will not be considered for evaluation unless requested by the European Commission.

The applicant's attention is also drawn to the fact that incomplete or unsigned application forms, hand-written forms and those sent by fax or e-mail will not be taken into consideration.

### **13. COMMUNICATION**

#### ***Communication during the application period***

The information contained in the present call document together with the Financial Guidelines for Applicants provides all the information you require to submit an application. Please read it carefully before doing so, paying particular attention to the priorities of the present call.

**All enquiries must be made by e-mail only to:**

**[empl-vp-social-dialogue@ec.europa.eu](mailto:empl-vp-social-dialogue@ec.europa.eu)**

For technical problems please contact: [empl-swim-support@ec.europa.eu](mailto:empl-swim-support@ec.europa.eu)

Questions may be sent to the above address no later than 10 days before the deadline for the submission of proposals. The Commission has no obligation to provide clarifications to questions received after this date.

Replies will be given no later than 5 days before the deadline for submission of proposals. To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the Commission will not give a prior opinion on the eligibility of applicants or affiliated entities, an action or specific activities.

As a rule, no individual replies to questions will be sent but all questions together with the answers and other important notices will be published (FAQ – Frequently Asked

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<sup>19</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/contact/mailing\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/contact/mailing_en.htm)

Questions) at regular intervals on the Europa website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=629&langId=en&callId=477>.

The Commission may, on its own initiative, inform interested parties of any error, inaccuracy, omission or clerical error in the text of the call for proposals on the mentioned Europa website. It is therefore advisable to consult the above mentioned website regularly in order to be informed of the questions and answers published.

No modification to the proposal is allowed once the deadline for submission has elapsed. If there is a need to clarify certain aspects or to correct clerical mistakes, the Commission may contact the applicant for this purpose during the evaluation process. This is generally done by e-mail. It is entirely the responsibility of applicants to ensure that all contact information provided is accurate and functioning. In case of any change of contact details, please send an e-mail with the application VP reference and the new contact details to [empl-vp-social-dialogue@ec.europa.eu](mailto:empl-vp-social-dialogue@ec.europa.eu).

All communication regarding an application will be done with the lead applicant only, unless there are specific reasons to do otherwise.

### ***Information on the outcome of the procedure***

Applicants will be informed in writing about the results of the selection process.

Unsuccessful applicants will be informed of the reasons for rejection. Successful applicants will receive 2 copies of the original agreement for acceptance and signature (see also section 10 above).

No information regarding the award procedure will be disclosed until the notification letters have been sent to the beneficiaries.

### ***Participation of the Commission in project events***

Following the award of a grant, if the successful applicant would like the Commission to participate in any project events, the applicant must take immediate contact (in any case, at least 2 months before the event) with the Commission official responsible for following the action (named in the letter accompanying the grant agreement). The successful applicant should therefore not finalise the programming of such events without the Commission's prior approval and confirmation of participation.

The Commission's acceptance of the grant application does not prejudice its decision on whether to attend an event included in the work programme. Such a decision is always subject to a separate examination of the event programme and prior agreement on the dates and practicalities. In this context it should be noted that the probability of Commission officials participating in project events will be higher if the latter take place in Brussels.

## 14. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The table below includes the documents that must be provided on submission of the proposal. It also indicates where originals are required. We recommend that applicants use the table as a **checklist** in order to verify compliance with all requirements.

**In order to allow the Commission to evaluate proposals, files must be complete.**

While some information must be supplied using the templates available in the SWIM, other documents may need to be completed and/or attached electronically, usually either administrative documents or free format text descriptions. The SWIM application indicates in each section where SWIM templates should be used as well as which and where free format documents can be uploaded electronically.

Regarding the detailed work programme and budget explanation, applicants should take account of the following instructions.

- The **detailed work programme** (see checklist point 12) should **not repeat information that is already provided in the SWIM application form**<sup>20</sup>.
  - It should provide a detailed and structured overview of the different project activities, the foreseen timing (indicating numbers of months, *not* names of months) and the role and responsibility of each partner organisation (*not* individual staff members) in the implementation of these activities, as well as, to the extent possible, draft agendas of the main project events.
  - Where appropriate, risk factors as regards implementation and/or impact of the activities should be identified and mitigating measures defined.
  - It offers an opportunity to develop further the rationale and problem analysis underpinning the action.
  - If any subcontracting of tasks is foreseen, the detailed work programme must provide detailed information on the tasks to be subcontracted and the reasons for doing so. Core tasks as defined in section 6.3 of the call cannot be subcontracted.
  - All other information on the action should in principle be given in the SWIM application form. The detailed work programme is therefore expected not to be much longer than 5 pages, with an absolute maximum of 10 pages.
- The **budget explanation** (see checklist point 13) must provide **additional** information to explain and justify items of the proposed budget as submitted in the SWIM application form. It should in particular explain: how the number of working days of staff involved in the implementation of the action has been fixed; how average travel costs were calculated; unless this is self-explanatory, how costs of services and administration costs were defined.

At the submission of the application, **copies of the signed originals** will be accepted for most of the documents to be submitted by the co-applicants. However, the lead

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<sup>20</sup> The corresponding section in the SWIM form (E.6 Workplan) can therefore be kept rather succinct.

applicant shall keep the original signed versions for its records, because **originals** may have to be submitted for certain documents at a later stage. **If the lead applicant fails to submit these original documents within the deadline given by the Commission, the proposal will be rejected for lack of administrative compliance.**

Regarding the compilation of the application file, it is recommended to:

- follow the order of documents as listed in the checklist;
- print the documents double-sided;
- use 2-hole folders (do not bind or glue; stapling is acceptable).

## CHECKLIST for required documents

This table includes the documents that must be provided and indicates where originals are required. We strongly recommend using the table as a checklist in order to verify compliance with all requirements. **Notes:** highlighted documents do not need to be provided by public entities. Documents marked with \* are obligatorily to be attached online in SWIM as well.

No.	Document	Specification and content	The document must be provided by each				Originally signed?	Checkbox
			Lead applicant	Co-applicant	Affiliated entity	Associate organisation / third party		
1	Official cover letter of the application	This <b>free format</b> letter must quote the reference of the call for proposals and the proposal reference number generated by SWIM (e.g. VP/20XX/OXX/xxxx).	✓	--	--	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Signed SWIM application form submitted online	The SWIM application form submitted online must be printed and dated and signed by the authorised legal representative and send by hard copies as foreseen in Section 12. <i>Note: the online form must be electronically submitted before printing. After electronic submission, no further changes to the proposal are permitted.</i>	✓	--	--	--	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Declaration on honour*	The <b>template</b> is available in SWIM and must be written on the official letterhead of the organisation, bearing the original signature of the authorised legal representative. <i>Copies of the original signed declaration of co-applicants are accepted at the submission of the application; originals to be submitted upon request.</i>	✓	✓	--	--	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Letter of commitment*	The <b>template</b> is available in SWIM and must explain the nature of the organisation's involvement and specify the amount of any funding provided. The letter must be written on the official letterhead of the organisation and bear the original signature of the legal representative. <i>Copies of the original signed letters of commitment are accepted at the submission of the application; originals to be submitted upon request.</i>	--	✓	✓	✓	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Letter of mandate*	The <b>template</b> is available in SWIM and must be written on the official letterhead of the organisation, dated and signed by the authorised legal representative. <i>Copies of the original signed letters of mandate are accepted at the submission of the application; originals to be submitted upon request.</i>	--	✓	--	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>

No.	Document	Specification and content	The document must be provided by each				Originally signed?	Checkbox
			Lead applicant	Co-applicant	Affiliated entity	Associate organisation / third party		
6	Legal/capital link with lead or co-applicant*	Affiliated entities are required to provide proof of the legal and/or capital link with the lead or co-applicant.	--	--	✓	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Legal entity form*	The <a href="#">template</a> is available in SWIM and online ( <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legal_entities_en.cfm">http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legal_entities_en.cfm</a> ) and must be duly signed and dated by the legal representative. Exclusively in the case of <b>social partner organisations without legal personality</b> , a signed letter of the legal representative certifying his/her capacity to undertake legal obligations on behalf of the organisation.	✓	✓	--	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Proof of registration	A certificate of official registration or other official document attesting the establishment of the entity (for public bodies: the law, decree, decision, etc., establishing the entity).	✓	✓	--	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Statutes	The articles of association/founding act/constitution/statutes or equivalent, proving the eligibility of the organisation. It is recommended not to include a paper copy of statutes in the application file, but to attach only an electronic copy in the SWIM application form. Organisations of Candidate Countries are requested to provide a translation in English, French or German of the required documents.	✓	✓	--	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	VAT certificate	A document showing the identification number for tax purposes or the VAT number, if applicable.	✓	✓	--	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Financial identification form*	The <a href="#">template</a> is available in SWIM and online ( <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/financial_id/financial_id_en.cfm">http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/financial_id/financial_id_en.cfm</a> ) and must be duly signed and dated by the <u>account holder</u> and bearing the bank stamp and signature of the bank representative (or a copy of recent bank statement attached).	✓	--	--	--	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>

No.	Document	Specification and content	The document must be provided by each				Originally signed?	Checkbox
			Lead applicant	Co-applicant	Affiliated entity	Associate organisation / third party		
12	Detailed work programme*	This is a separate <b>free-format</b> document in addition to the on-line application form and it must also be submitted both electronically and on paper. The paper version must be identical to the electronic version of the detailed work programme. The detailed work programme should be submitted in English, French or German.	✓	--	--	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Budget Explanation for the project*	This is a separate <b>free-format</b> document in addition to the budget section of the on-line application form and it must also be submitted electronically in annex to the on-line application form. The paper version must be identical to the electronic version of the budget explanation. The Commission may request applicants to submit additional justifications of proposed eligible costs during the evaluation procedure. The document should be submitted in English, French or German.	✓	--	--	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Curriculum vitae of the project manager	Detailed CV of the person responsible for managing the action (named in section A.3 of the online application form). The CV should indicate clearly the current employer. The CV should be submitted in English, French or German.	✓	--	--	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Draft tender specifications	To be submitted for procurement contracts with a value that exceeds EUR 60 000 (see also section 11 of the call).	✓	✓	✓	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Balance sheet	The most recent balance sheet, including assets and liabilities, specifying the currency used. Organisations that are not required by law to establish an official balance sheet must nevertheless provide information on their assets and liabilities. <b>A statement of income and expenses is not sufficient.</b>	✓	✓	--	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Audit report	For grant requests of EUR 750,000: an external audit report produced by an approved auditor, certifying the accounts for the last financial year available. The threshold applies to each co-applicant in line with their share of the action budget. The report should be submitted in English, French or German.	✓	✓	--	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>

**ANNEX I:**

**FINANCIAL GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS**

Annex I is available on the Europa website under the relevant call:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=629&langId=en&callId=477>

## ANNEX II

### MODEL FOR TENDER SPECIFICATIONS FOR SUBCONTRACTING EXTERNAL EXPERTISE

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#### Tender Specifications – .....

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1. **Background**
2. **Purpose of the Contract**
3. **Tasks to be performed by the Contractor**
  - 3.1 **Description of tasks**
  - 3.2 **Guidance and indications on tasks execution and methodology**
4. **Expertise required**
5. **Time schedule and reporting**
6. **Payments and standard contract**
7. **Price**
8. **Selection criteria**
9. **Award criteria**

The contract will be awarded to the tenderer whose offer represents the best value for money - taking into account the following criteria:

- .....
- .....
- .....

It should be noted that the contract will **not** be awarded to a tenderer who receives less than 70% on the Award Criteria.

10. **Content and presentation of the bids**
  - 10.1 **Content of the bids**
  - 10.2 **Presentation of the bids**