



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE AGENCY FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (EASME)

Department A COSME, H2020 SME & EMFF
COSME

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Social Economy Missions
COS-SEM-2020-4-01

Questions and Answers

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¹This document is updated regularly. New questions and answers added to the document since the previous version are indicated as ‘**NEW**’

A. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

A.1

Question

In the introduction of the call, the Green Deal is mentioned as the new priority for the Commission. Should consortium proposal include necessarily a dimension linked to the social impact of the climate transition?

Answer

The aim of the “Social economy missions” is to accelerate the development and acknowledgement of the potential of social economy via inter-regional learning and collaboration. A consortium proposal has to be relevant to one of the proposed social economy missions’ topics as specified in Section 2.2 of the call or another topic in the field of social economy proposed by an applicant and relevant for all consortium partners.

B. OBJECTIVE(S) – THEME(S) – ACTIVITIES – OUTPUTS

B.1

Question

Can we include organization of festival or open craft market (free of charges for all the participants) as an action in our project?

Answer

The proposed "social economy mission" must include, at least, the compulsory parts specified in Section 2.3 of the call. The three compulsory workshops may be followed by additional learning activities among consortium partners (such as additional workshops, webinars, peer-to-peer learnings, etc.) or by other additional activities that would be beneficial for the project (for example on how to transfer collected good practice from one region to another region or how to prepare the ground for a future joint inter-regional project etc.).

B.2

Question

Workshops: one of them can be webinar?

Answer

As specified in Section 2.3 of the call, the three compulsory workshops will be attended by at least 20 “travelling” participants representing the consortium partners. That means that the three compulsory workshops must be organised as physical meetings. In addition to the three compulsory workshops, additional learning activities among consortium partners such as additional workshops, webinars, peer-to-peer learnings, etc. that would be beneficial for the project could be organised.

B.3

Question

Where can we find the EC guidance on participatory methods?

Answer

As specified in Section 2.3 of the call, an online or offline session with invited representatives of the consortia will be organised by respective European Commission services shortly after the kick-off meeting in order to provide guidance on participatory methods for planning and organising workshops.

B.4

Question

The recommendation for the language in which is written the application is also the same for the reports on workshops? That is everything should be done in English?

Answer

As specified in Section 2.4 of the call, the workshop reports with collected good practices shall be submitted in English within 3 weeks after the completion of individual workshops within the “social

economy mission”.

B.5

Question

It is not clear to me the role of the territorial delegations, are they the same as the 3 partners of other countries?

Answer

The coordinator and its consortium partners (public administrations at regional or local level) will be accompanied by their respective territorial delegations. Territorial delegations will allow a broad participation of social economy stakeholders active in a given territory in the social economy missions as specified in Section 2.3 of the call.

Network or umbrella organisations at inter-regional, national, EU or COSME countries' level acting as consortium partners will not lead territorial delegations. This applies only to the coordinator and partners who represent public administrations at regional or local level.

B.6

Question

What are the requirements to consider a best practice, best practice? Is there any need that those "best practices" are considered so by a third organisation or the EU? Should the good practices come only from the participating organizations in the consortium? Will there be a template of describing "good practices" in the workshop reports or not?

Answer

As specified in Section 7.2 of the call, the coordinator needs to provide evidence illustrating the experience gathered in the field of the priority of the “social economy mission” (this does not apply to the mission “Building resilient regional and/or local ecosystems”) that will serve as a basis for presenting best practices. The best practices must be presented by the consortium coordinator and where relevant, by the consortium partners and/or members of territorial delegations (social economy stakeholders active in a given territory).

As specified in Section 2.4 of the call, the workshop reports will be published at the [Social Economy Community collaborative website](#) in a requested template. The template will be provided by the European Commission. Selection of best practices will not be validated by the European Commission in advance but the workshop reports as deliverables with good practices will need to be approved by EASME.

B.7

Question

Concerning the Workshops: how many working days (without the travel days) are expected for one workshop?

Answer

As specified in Section 2.3 of the call, the methodology, duration and location of the compulsory workshops must be proposed by the applicants in their proposals.

B.8

Question

At some point of the call you mention "triple bottom up performance and import" related to the Support to social economy business development topic. Could you please clarify a bit more on that point?

Answer

The triple bottom line performance refers to measuring economic, social and environmental performance/impact of an enterprise.

B.9

Question

Are any other dissemination events (beside publishing good practices in the website) are planned to gather the different examples of the 19 projects?

Answer

The compulsory activities can be followed by other additional activities that would be beneficial for the project, including other dissemination activities implemented by the projects.

C. BUDGET AVAILABLE AND FUNDING OF PROJECTS

C.1

Question

EU Grant % and self-funding %?

Answer

As specified in Section 11.2 of the call, the grant reimburses up to 90% of the eligible project management costs for personnel, subcontracting, other direct and indirect costs incurred by the applicants. The grant may reimburse up to 100% of the sum allocated as financial support to third parties, the members of the delegations participating in the workshops organised by project partners.

D. ADMISSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

E. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

E.1

Question

I'm trying to find the list of countries participating in the COSME programme. In particular, I'm looking at the following call: COS-SEM-2020-4-01: Social economy missions. But I can't find the actual list of countries in the call pages (or elsewhere online).

Answer

The [Regulation establishing COSME](#) sets out the criteria for participation in the programme. Besides EU Member States, the list of non-EU countries participating in COSME can be found [here](#).

E.2

Question

Chamber of Commerce and Industry are eligible in this call of proposals? Thanks in advance for your answer.

Answer

As indicated in section 5. Eligibility criteria of the call for proposals, the coordinator must be a regional or local public administration (such as municipality, city, region, etc.). The consortium partners must be regional or local public administrations (such as municipality, city, region, etc.). Network or umbrella organisations active in the field of social economy or social entrepreneurship or related issues at inter-regional, national, EU or COSME countries' level can participate as additional consortium partners.

E.3

Question

In relation to the COS-SEM-2020-4-01: Social economy missions call for proposals, we would like to ask if the following organization type is eligible as partner applicant: Regional Councils of Chambers of Commerce from Spain.

Answer

See reply to answer to E.2

E.4

Question

We have read the eligibility section for this call, in particular eligible applicants and eligible consortia. We have also read the topic's description where Fab Labs are often mentioned:

The "Building resilient regional and/or local ecosystems" mission will bring together:

- Relevant regional and local public authorities;
- Social economy stakeholders (such as SMEs, social enterprises, cooperatives, start-ups, social service enterprises and agencies) and other relevant actors such as universities, fablabs or citylabs or living labs and regular SME's.

...../...

the rise of urban and rural fablabs to foster low and high-tech (green) solutions servicing sectors such as sustainable agriculture, tourism, mobility, the circular economy and foster new and green local value chains.

Our question is, would a Fab Lab registered as a private law, non-for-profit research organisation be eligible consortium partner for this call?

Answer

See reply to answer to E.2

E.5

Question

Could you please confirm if local non-public stakeholders (SMEs, SEEs, umbrella organisations) can be consortium full partners?

Answer

No, they can only be part of the delegation of the partner who is fulfilling eligibility criteria listed under Section 5 of the call for proposals.

E.6

Question

Could you please let us know some ways to find partners/consortiums for this call in order to help some of our clients (Greek Municipalities) to be included in some proposal?

Answer

To find partners for your project ideas, you can use the Partner Search function of the Funding & Tenders Portal. The function allows to look for organisations which received funding in the past and create and check partner search requests by call/topic. Please consult the [Online manual "Find a grant"](#) for more information on options for finding partners.

E.7

Question

We have a question regarding eligible consortia in this Call for proposals. In the previous Call (2019) eligible partners were public authorities and in the current Call public administration is stated as eligible. Can you please explain the difference between public authority and public administration? Our organization has a status of public authority and we want to make sure we are eligible as a consortia partner.

Answer

In Section 5.1 of the call for proposals the eligibility of consortium partners is defined as "Regional or local public administration (such as municipality, city, region, etc.)." Public administrations are public entities or bodies created under public law to address specific issues of general interest. They have a legal personality distinct of that of the Member state, the capacity to sign contracts in its own name and the ability to legally sue in their own name or to be sued. It is up to the applicants to prove that they are fulfilling the eligibility criteria.

E.8

Question

I am contacting you regarding the new COSME call - Social economy missions. I have a question

regarding our organization's eligibility to participate in this Call.

As stated in the Call text: "The consortium partners must be:

- Regional or local public administration (such as municipality, city, region, etc.).

Linked third parties, i.e. 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, may take part in the action as applicants in order to declare eligible costs. "

We are Regional Center for Entrepreneurship - we are a private company (Ltd.) in sole ownership of regional government. Center is established and owned by the region with the mission to develop regional business ecosystems with an emphasis on the incentive for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Could you please clarify if we are the eligible partner to join this Call.

Answer

See reply to question E.2.

Participation of social economy stakeholders active in a given territory in individual "social economy missions" will be ensured through participation in territorial delegations. See reply to question B.5

E.9

Question

Can you confirm the eligibility criteria for "COS-SEM-2020-4-01: Social economy missions". I work for Local Development Company, a local development company implementing the EU LEADER program in County. Can you confirm if we are classed as "local public administration" and if we can apply?

Answer

See reply to question E.2. It is up to the applicants to prove that they are fulfilling the eligibility criteria.

Participation of social economy stakeholders active in a given territory in individual "social economy missions" will be ensured through participation in territorial delegations. See reply to question B.5

E.10

Question

I am contacting you in terms of COS-SEM-2020-4-01: Social economy missions call. I work at the UK University and we have been recently thinking to create a Social Innovation District.

Could you please tell me if we are still eligible to apply and submit the proposal as a UK institution?

Answer

The eligibility of entities established in the UK is specified in Section 5.3 of the call.

E.11

Question

I have read the eligibility conditions and the responses in the FAQ document, however, I would appreciate your clarification regarding the following case: we are a municipal foundation (established by a decision of the municipal council), and 50% of our board of managers is comprised of municipal councillors and representatives of the municipal administration; we're also funded by the municipality through the municipal budget.

Is the organization eligible to participate as a full partner in a consortium under call for proposals (independently) or on behalf of the municipality?

Answer

See reply to answer to E.2. It is up to the applicants to prove that they are fulfilling the eligibility criteria.

Participation of social economy stakeholders active in a given territory in individual "social economy missions" will be ensured through participation in territorial delegations. See reply to question B.5

E.12

Question

I had a question, how can a social organization participate? We are working with a couple of municipalities preparing this proposal. As a subcontracting with a local government maybe?

Answer

Section 2.3 of the call specifies that social economy stakeholders can participate as part of delegations consisting of social economy stakeholders active in a given territory, led by consortium partners. These delegations of social economy stakeholders active in a given territory must be identified in proposals and they shall include social economy enterprises and, where appropriate, regional or local network or umbrella organisation(s), and/or universities and/or business organisations and/or research organisations and/or civil society organisations and/or other support organisations active in the area of social economy or social entrepreneurship.

Applications must provide financial support to third parties, meaning the members of the delegations participating in the workshops organised by project partners as specified in section 11.2 of the call. Financial support to third parties must cover the travel, accommodation and subsistence costs necessary for members of delegations to participate in “social economy missions” (workshops), as indicated in the description of the action.

E.13

Question

I have a question with reference to call for proposals COS-SEM-2020-4-01, Social economy missions. Can an agency linked to a public local/regional administration act as partner (leader or non-leader) of a project?

In the call text it is mentioned that "Linked third parties, i.e. 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, may take part in the action as applicants in order to declare eligible costs", but I am not sure whether this means that they can be a project partner from scratch, i.e. from before submitting the proposal, or that they may take part in the action if the public administration to which they are linked (the actual partner) considers so during the project implementation.

Answer

See reply to answer to E.2.

E.14

Question

In relation to the COS-SEM-2020-4-01: Social economy missions call for proposals, we would like to ask , referring to the additional consortium partners “Network or umbrella organisations active in the field of social economy or social entrepreneurship” if , a no profit social promotion association legal based in one Italian region that manages a project recognized as best practice by ICESP (Italian Circular Economy Stakeholders Platform) can be eligible as additional consortium partner ?

Answer

Section 5.2 of the call specifies that network or umbrella organisations in the field of social economy or social entrepreneurship or related issues at inter-regional, national, EU or COSME countries’ level can participate as consortium partners. It is up to the applicants to prove that they are fulfilling the eligibility criteria.

E.15

Question

Are additional consortium partners necessary? If yes, what organizations meets the requirements (despite the umbrella organizations).

Answer

Proposed consortia must include minimum three different regional or local public administrations (such as municipality, city, region, etc.) as specified in Section 5.2 of the call. Additional partners can be network or umbrella organisations in the field of social economy or social entrepreneurship or related issues at inter-regional, national, EU or COSME countries’ level, but they are not mandatory.

E.16

Question

If we have 3 public administrations from 3 different countries as partners, can we have an additional partner that is an NGO/ SME in the field of social economy or social entrepreneurship?

Answer

Only network or umbrella organisations active in the field of social economy or social entrepreneurship or related issues at inter-regional, national, EU or COSME countries' level can participate as additional consortium partners.

Participation of social economy stakeholders active in a given territory in individual "social economy missions" will be ensured through participation in territorial delegations. See reply to question B.5

E.17

Question

What are the "related issues" to social economy and social entrepreneurship in terms of network or umbrella organizations?

Answer

Activities linked to social economy and social entrepreneurship and relevant for a given social economy mission's topic.

E.16

Question

I have two questions about consortia: 1. Is a consortium comprising three local authorities from Bulgaria, Serbia and Northern Macedonia eligible? 2. Should the consortium be a legal entity, ie be officially registered under the law of the respective country or formed only on the basis of an agreement between the parties?

Answer

1. As indicated in Section 5.1 of the call, applications from legal entities established in the EU Member States and countries participating in the COSME programme are eligible. The list of non-EU countries participating in COSME can be found [here](#).

2. The consortium does not need to form a legal entity. The information on requirement to have a Consortium agreement if provided in Article 25.3 of the [Model grant agreement](#).

E.18

Question

Will the UK be eligible as a partner?

Answer

See reply to answer to E.10.

E.19

Question

In the previous abandoned call, it was compulsory to have at least 3 social economy organisations or companies in the local partnership which were designated as from the application step, is it still the case in this call?

Answer

See reply to answer to E.2.

E.20

Question

Is an NGO eligible in the network of umbrella organisations?

Answer

See reply to answer to E.2.

E.21

Question

Can partners from one country come from different Regions and could this be an added value feature if they collaborated before?

Answer

Partners from different regions from one country are eligible provided the consortia includes minimum three different regional or local public administrations from minimum three different EU Member States or countries participating in the COSME programme (the latter does not apply to regional or local public administrations from EU's outermost regions or overseas countries and territories).

The added value of such composition of a consortium can be only assessed as part of the award criteria in a received proposal.

E.22

Question

Is a university eligible as a partner organisation?

Answer

See reply to answer to E.2.

Participation of social economy stakeholders active in a given territory in individual "social economy missions" will be ensured through participation in territorial delegations. See reply to question B.5

E.23

Question

Could a national (managing) authority be considered as an eligible partner? And what about a private company (Ltd.) in sole ownership of a regional government? Please note this company is part of the regional administration since it was established and is fully owned by the region and would represent the region itself.

Answer

See reply to answer to E.2.

E.24

Question

I am interested in applying as consortium partner with my NGO (created in 2012 under the Romania legislation as association) which created under its umbrella a social business. In Romania, there is no particular legal form for social enterprise and the majority of social enterprises are created by NGOs - legal form. Is our NGO which has social business activity eligible to partner in a consortium for the call for projects "COS-SEM-2020-4-01: Social economy missions".

Answer

See reply to answer to E.2.

E.25

Question **NEW**

Could you please clarify the following points from the Call document: The document states: "Linked third parties, i.e. 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, may take part in the action as applicants in order to declare eligible costs."

1.1 Does your program have a procedure or further guidelines for establishing the status of a "linked third party"? What documents or evidence needs to be provided that the entity is a "linked third party" to a city/municipal/regional public administration?

1.2 Does the above statement from the call document mean that a "linked third party" IS eligible as an Applicant / Coordinator of a consortium for this call for proposals?

1.3 If the above is confirmed and a "linked third party" is eligible to participate as an Applicant/Coordinator, is it still mandatory to have the respective city/municipal/regional public authority as a Partner in the consortium? In case it is not mandatory, can the respective city/municipal/regional authority take part in the "traveling" delegation to the workshops in the partner countries?

Answer

Linked third parties are defined in the Section 5.1 of the call as "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". The same section provides that linked third parties, "may take part in the action as applicants in order to declare eligible costs". Therefore if linked third parties intend to declare their costs linked to the action, they cannot simply participate indirectly via another entity but must apply directly as applicant and comply with all eligibility, non-exclusion and selection criteria set out in Sections 5 to 7 of the call.

E.26

Question **NEW**

Can an agency linked to a public local/regional administration act as partner (leader or non-leader) of a project? In the call text it is mentioned that "Linked third parties, i.e. 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, may take part in the action as applicants in order to declare eligible costs", but I am not sure whether this means that they can be a project partner from scratch, i.e. from before submitting the proposal, or that they may take part in the action if the public administration to which they are linked (the actual partner) considers so during the project implementation.

Answer

See replies to answers to E.2 and E.25.

E.27

Question **NEW**

The text of the call for "Social economy missions" stipulates that consortia must gather at least three different regional or local public administration (such as municipality, city, region, etc.) from three different EU Member States or countries participating in the COSME programme. Can the participation of a local or regional authority (LRA) to the project, and thus a consortium, be delegated by the LRA to a regional entity implementing its social economy policy, i.e. a local or regional economic development agency for example? (by providing a letter of support describing the close links between the LRA and that entity and the entity's role in the implementation of local/regional schemes in support of social economy)

Answer

See reply to answers to E.2.

F. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

F.1

Question

In case of a Public administration, who should sign the declaration of honour?

Answer

Roles and access rights for proposal submission and grant management are provided the Online manual [here](#).

G. SELECTION CRITERIA

H. AWARD CRITERIA

I. LEGAL COMMITMENTS

J. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROCEDURES

K. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

K.1

Question

So the payments are made after the project is over?

Answer

Section 11.3 of the call specifies the payment arrangements. The Agency will make the pre-financing payment corresponding to 70% of the grant amount to the coordinator and establish the amount of the final payment to be made to the coordinator on the basis of the calculation of the final grant amount (see Section 11.2 of the call).

K.2

Question

Third parties expenses are available for the organisation of the workshops?

Answer

Information on financial support to third parties is specified in Section 11.1.f) of the call.

K.3

Question

Can networks of Social Enterprises also participate as partners even if they are already receiving an operating grant from the European Commission?

Answer

Section 11.2.E of the call specifies that in the case of beneficiaries receiving an operating grant financed by the EU or Euratom budget, they cannot declare indirect costs for the period covered by the operating grant, unless they can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any costs of the action. If the operating grant covers the entire usual annual activity and budget of the beneficiary, the latter is not entitled to receive any indirect costs under the action grant.

K.4

Question

Can the budget be allocated to umbrella organisations?

Answer

Budget can be allocated to all partners in the consortium, including umbrella organisations provided

they are eligible as participating partners.

K.5

Question

Can organizations not eligible as coordinators nor partners participate as subcontractors? Which are considered core tasks (not allowed for subcontracting)?

Answer

Section 11.1.e) of the call indicates the rules for subcontracting. Core tasks are indicated in Section 2.3. of the call.

K.6

Question

Co-financing can be on the salaries of employed people of private partners?

Answer

Section 11.2 of the call on eligible direct costs indicates types of personnel costs that are considered as eligible for co-financing.

L. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

M. PUBLICITY

N. DATA PROTECTION

O. PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

O.1

Question

I am attaching a doc outlining my plans. Can u maybe assist and advuse as I am not sure of a few things.

Answer

Proposals must be submitted in accordance with the requirements of section 4 and by the deadline specified under section 2.6. Applicants are requested to go to <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/section/cosme/cosme-open-calls-proposals> and follow the procedure for submitting an application. The Agency is not in a position to provide individual advice on the content of a specific application.

O.2

Question

I was meant to be dialling into the information session webinar earlier this afternoon on 'social economy missions' and wasn't able to so wondered was the information session recorded and if so can I get a copy or a link to the webpage so I can watch the information session webinar?

Answer

The recording of the webinar is not available online. However, the presentation from the webinar is available for download on the call's [webpage](#). The answers to questions raised during the webinar are provided in this document.

O.3

Question

Today I had had some problems to connect me to session webinar. Can I have documentation about session?

Answer

The presentation from the webinar is available for download on the call's [webpage](#). The answers to

questions raised during the webinar are provided in this document.

O.4

Question

Project submitted in 2019 call can be resubmitted adapting to the new call?

Answer

Proposals submitted in 2019 call can be adapted for submission as part of this call provided they address one of the topics indicated in this call and they fulfil the admissibility requirements, and eligibility, exclusion, selection and award criteria.