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Record of questions

Information campaign in the framework of
the INTERREG - IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,
CCI Number: CCI 2014TC16I5CB006- PART V from 24.11.2015 to 22.12.2015


No.	Question	Answer
1	We are a national organization unit at Bulgarian Academy of Science. My question is because we are outside the eligible territory and are registered in Sofia, whether we are eligible participants and if so, whether we can participate as a lead partner?	<p>According to p. 2.5.1. “<i>Eligibility of applicants</i>” in the Guidelines for applicants, one of the requirements for eligibility of the partners is to be legally established within the eligible cross border region between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Exception is made for national/regional public authorities whose area of competence, established by legal acts, extends to the eligible area of the programme or structures of central public authorities located in the eligible cross border region which cannot be registered as legal entities – in this case the central authority is a project partner.</p> <p>Any institution/organization, which meets the eligibility criteria, may be a Lead Partner. In addition, Lead partner must be registered within the eligible border region between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at least 12 months before the deadline for submission of project proposals under current Call for Proposals.</p>
2	Are the members of the Executive Board of an NGO, which will be partner in a project, are treated as employees of the NGO by the Program? The members of the Executive Board (Chairperson, Deputy-Chairperson, Secretary general) do not have contracts with the NGO organization for their positions, as they are elected by the General Meeting of the NGO. So, they are not hired by the NGO. As the members of the Executive board do not	<p>There is no restriction in the Guidelines for applicants members of the Executive Board of a beneficiary to be engaged in the project team in case a NGO is an applicant. As stated in p. 2.5.3. “<i>Eligibility of expenditures</i>” in the Guidelines for applicants the proper appointment of the project team is on the responsibility of the beneficiaries themselves and should be done in accordance with the European and national legislation.</p> <p>In exceptional cases, the partner organization can assign its employee by a service contract to perform expert work under the project (which differs from the project management activities: organization, coordination, management and reporting). In such specific case, it will be required detailed justification for the reasons leading to these circumstances to be elaborated,</p>

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	<p>have contracts with the NGO and if they are the people, who will manage the project, will a civil contract with the NGO for management of the project be acceptable for the Program?</p> <p>It is stated in the guidelines that "Contracting of employees of the partner organizations as external experts, e.g. as freelancers" is ineligible expense for the budget. In this respect are the members of the Executive board of an NGO (a partner in a project) allowed to be both the People, who manage the project and Experts for some of the activities? If members of the Executive board of an NGO (a partner in a project) are allowed to both manage the project and be experts for some of the activities, what type of contracts are allowed for them by the Program (civil contracts, labour contracts or any other type of contracts).</p>	<p>which shall be attached to the signed contract. As stated in p. 2.5.3 "<i>Eligibility of expenditures</i>" in the current Guidelines for applicants, expenditures must be made according to the Procurement and Grants for European Union External Actions – a Practical Guide document (PRAG): http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/.</p>
3	<p>We are technical secondary schools from Macedonia and Bulgaria and want to apply under specific Axis 1 - Environment, soft measures. We intend to implement reconstruction of school roof, but we don't have any technical documentation for it. Is preparing technical documentation for the rehabilitation of the roof at the school can enter this axis of IPA cross border cooperation?</p>	<p>The projects should contribute to the achievement of the specific objective addressed and output indicators.</p> <p>All envisaged works activities have to be supported with approved/certified detailed works design, detailed Bill of Quantities and Explanatory Note (if applicable according to the relevant legislation of the respective country, where the works activities will be implemented). In case the construction works do not require approval of a works design, the applicants have to present a statement by the relevant institutions for exception of the rule for design's approval. Missing of approved works design issued not later than 2 years prior to the submission deadline of the current call (when applicable) is a reason for direct elimination. Please see the list of supporting documents that have to be submitted together with the Application form, mentioned in point 4.2 <i>Annexes (B)</i> of the Guidelines for applicants.</p> <p>Expenditures for preparation of technical documentation are eligible for reimbursement under the Programme. More details are available in p. 2.5.3 Eligibility of expenditures of the</p>

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		Guidelines for Applicants, Budget line 6 Project preparation.
4	<p>Is the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts eligible to apply for the first call of the Interreg IPA cross-border cooperation programme Bulgaria-Macedonia? The Academy is the highest and sovereign scientific and artistic institution in the Republic of Macedonia with special importance for organization of basic and complex scientific research and research that is of high value for the growth of the Republic of Macedonia.</p>	<p>According to p. 2.5.1. “<i>Eligibility of applicants</i>” in the Guidelines for applicants one of the requirements for eligibility of the partners is to be legally established within the eligible cross border region between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.</p> <p>Exception is made for national/regional public authorities whose area of competence, established by legal acts, extends to the eligible area of the programme or structures of central public authorities located in the eligible cross border region which cannot be registered as legal entities.</p>
5	<p>Would you clarify the applicants' eligibility criteria as they are presented in the tables under point 2.5.1.1 of the Guidelines for Applicants? Should it be considered that "yes" and "no" in the columns Investment/Soft measures indicate which type of beneficiary for what type of measure may or may not apply?</p> <p>By the visual way those tables are presented it is understood that NGOs may not be a partner in investment projects and at the same time the list of potential beneficiaries is described as "indicative".</p>	<p>According to p. 2.5.1. “<i>Eligibility of applicants</i>” in the Guidelines for applicants under the Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2014-2020 lists of potential beneficiaries under each priority axis and type of measures are given indicatively. There is no restriction NGOs to participate in a project proposal with investment measures, but it should be taken into account that all investment activities should be implemented on a municipal or state-owned property and all documents related to investments activities required in the Guidelines for Applicants should be submitted.</p>

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6	Does the Sofia University, being a national educational and scientific-research centre fall into the category 'national/regional public authorities', following text from Guidance for Applicants, part 2.5.1?	<p>According to p. 2.5.1. “<i>Eligibility of applicants</i>” in the Guidelines for applicants under the Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2014-2020 one of the requirements for eligibility of the partners is to be legally established within the eligible cross border region between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.</p> <p>Exception is made for national/regional public authorities whose area of competence, established by legal acts, extends to the eligible area of the programme or structures of central public authorities located in the eligible cross border region which cannot be registered as legal entities.</p>
7	<p>1) We have an idea to apply soft measures with our partners in Bulgaria according IPA cross border projects. The project will be the topic of the first axis - Environmental protection, information activities and training measures. For the purposes of this direct will be required to have some solar equipment. Can our school, as main partner, buy those small quantity of solar equipment and it will be remain the property of the school - or the equipment may only be rented to the school during the project and put back? It is equipment for utilizing solar energy with value of near 5000 euro.</p> <p>2) Is part of the solar equipment produced in Macedonia (as candidate country for EU) can be purchased here in Macedonia or those equipment must be exclusively produced in EU? Those equipment already have EU certificate, even it is produced in Macedonia. Sometimes in the EU have equipment originating from China, but produced under</p>	<p>1) Necessary equipment for the project purpose could be purchased and stay property of the project partners after end of project duration, according to p. 2.5.3 “<i>Eligibility of expenditures</i>” under the Guidelines for applicants - Budget line 5 <i>Equipment and works</i>.</p> <p>2) For all procurement procedures under service, supply and works contracts beneficiaries must refer to and use the guidelines and templates of the “<i>Procurement and Grants for European Union External Actions – a Practical Guide</i>” document (PRAG): http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/ - according to p. 2.3. “<i>Applicable law and public procurement</i>” in the Guidelines for applicants. Rules of origin are specified in p. 2.3.1. The rules on nationality and origin of PRAG.</p>

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	supervision of company registered in the EU. Is that equipment appropriate for our project or it must be exclusively produced in the EU territory ?	
8	Are the specifications for supply of equipment should be on the company's letterhead /with signature and stamp/ or on the letterhead of the organization-applicant? How many specifications should be for one supply /one or three/?	Technical specification of tangible assets is a free form and must include at least <i>specification of the supply required, units; unit prices and total price /including VAT/</i> . According to the Guidelines for applicants /p.4.2. <i>Annexes (B)</i> / under the Interreg IPA CBC Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2014-2020 technical specifications must be provided in English in case of Supply of equipment. One technical specification is sufficient for one supply.
9	Is it eligible candidate College of Tourism Blagoevgrad, registered under the Law for Non-Profit Organizations /LNPO/ and acting in private use under the Interreg IPA CBC Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia?	According to p. 2.5.1. " <i>Eligibility of applicants</i> " in the Guidelines for applicants one of the requirements for eligibility of the partners is to be non-profit making bodies/organizations . In the Guidelines for Applicants under the Interreg IPA CBC Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2014-2020 there is no restriction regarding the law under which organisations are established.