

Clarification to question(s) raised by 4th July 2022, 12hrs

Question No. 1

Dear Sirs,

We are a company that has two productions, ie the production of ready-made clothing and the production of brooms and brushes.

We employ a large number of women of different ages in the clothing plant, and our goal is to employ at least 120 women through the plant. Considering that the company was created as a project of the Municipality of Velika Kladuša, its goal is to improve the socio-economic situation in the Municipality through the creation and maintenance of jobs. Our Municipality has always been recognizable for its economic development as well as for its strong diaspora.

Today, as well as the whole of BiH, we are facing the departure of complete families to EU countries, and therefore through the employment of women, we want to keep families in our municipality. When you provide better living conditions for a woman and ensure her existence, then there is no fear that the entire family will leave the Municipality.

So, we are interested in whether we as a company can apply for the project "IPA 2020 Annual Action Support to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the employment sector: EU4EMPLOYMENT in Bosnia and Herzegovina"?

If yes, you can treat this e-mail as our positive expression of interest in the aforementioned project.

Response

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your inquiry.

Regarding the eligibility of applicants, the Annex II Point 1 of the invitation to Expression of Interest states that

Eligibility of the potential entities for a Contribution Agreement is conditioned to the new Pillar Assessment, which is requested by the EU under the Financial Regulation (EU Euratom) No 2018/1046 from 18 July 2018. The potential Entrusted entity submitting the expression of interest should be:

- (a) An **International Organisation** as defined by Article 62 (c) (ii) within the meaning of Article 156 of the EU Financial Regulation whose pillars have been positively assessed for Budget Implementation Tasks (BIT) by the European Commission; or*
- (b) **EU Member State organisations.***

Hence, private companies are not eligible to apply for the procedure concerned.

Question No. 2

Dear representatives of the EU Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

I hope this email finds you well.

We have carefully read the Invitation for the Expression of Interest for candidate entities to be entrusted with the implementation of IPA 2020 support in the sector of employment: “EU4Employment in Bosnia and Herzegovina” as well as all the other relevant annexes published on 20th of June and we would like to request clarification on the following questions:

1. Will it be possible for an entrusted pillar assessed entity to partner with a European institution (albeit not pillar-assessed) if they do not have BIT (budget implementation tasks)?
2. Is partnering of the entrusted entity with an implementing partner or sub-delegate obligatory?

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Response

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your inquiry.

Regarding the eligibility of applicants, the Annex II Point 1 of the invitation to Expression of Interest states that

*Eligibility of the potential entities for a Contribution Agreement is **conditioned to the new Pillar Assessment**, which is requested by the EU under the Financial Regulation (EU Euratom) No 2018/1046 from 18 July 2018. The potential Entrusted entity submitting the expression of interest should be:*

- (a) An International Organisation as defined by Article 62 (c) (ii) within the meaning of Article 156 of the EU Financial Regulation 3 whose pillars have been positively assessed for Budget Implementation Tasks (BIT) by the European Commission; or*
- (b) EU Member State organisations.*

As the action will be implemented through a Contribution Agreement for indirect management, all Partners have to be pillar assessed, including European institutions.

Regarding implementing partner and sub-delegated entity, please also refer to the Implementation arrangements to the Expression of Interest, which states that “*The entrusted Entity/Delegated body will be responsible for managing the overall Action (including coordination with its partner(s) and/or sub-delegate(s), **if any**) which will include the combination of grants support (app. 80% of the EU contribution) and technical assistance.*”

Hence, the partnering of the entrusted entity with an implementing partner or sub-delegate is not obligatory.