

EEA FINANCIAL MECHANISM 2014-2021 GREECE
PROGRAMME I: LOCAL DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY REDUCTION

BILATERAL INITIATIVES RESTRICTED CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Call open on 03/03 /2023, time 9:00 (Greek Local Time)

Deadline for proposal submission: 21/4/2023 time 23:59 (Greek Local Time)

More information

Fund Operator Email address: info@localdevelopment-eeagrants.gr

www.asylumandmigration-eeagrants.gr

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1. Bilateral Call

The EEA Financial Mechanism has two overall objectives of equal importance:

- contributing to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and
- strengthening bilateral relations between Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway (hereafter referred to as “the Donor States”), and each of the 15 Beneficiary States

This bilateral call aims at strengthening the relations between legal entities (including NGOs) in Greece and in the Donor States and/or international organizations. Strengthening relations, meaning enhanced cooperation and improved mutual knowledge and understanding, can include networking, cooperation, exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, technology, experience and best practices.

SOL CROWE & HumanRights360, acting as the Fund Operator (FO) for the EEA Grants Programmes “Local Development and Poverty Reduction”- **Program I**, and the “Asylum and Migration (Addressing urgent needs for the reception and screening of asylum seekers and for the accommodation of vulnerable groups)” **Program II**, announces a Call for the Predefined Project Organizations under the Program I “Local Development & Poverty Reduction”, in order to strengthen bilateral relations between the Donor States and the Beneficiary States.

The fund for Bilateral Relations is an additional source of funding to the 23 mln euros allocated for the two Programmes. These funds would be available for Greek and Donor State (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) entities to have a bilateral cooperation and exchange technical knowledge. The FO will be contracting the selected beneficiaries while requesting funds for their finance from the NFP (National Focal Point). The FO will ensure reporting to the NFP which will enable the NFP to fulfil its reporting obligations to the FMO and the Donor States.

This call for applications has an allocated budget of € 50,000, to the three predefined project organizations, namely:

- Wergeland Centre
- Municipality of Athens,
- and Solidarity Now,

in order to connect with other partners eligible in Greece and Donor entities.

The available funding will be allocated to initiatives proposed by the pre-defined above-mentioned organizations through a transparent selection procedure. For more information concerning the application

process, the eligibility criteria, as well as the evaluation and selection process, kindly see the Guidelines for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives, as uploaded on the Programme' s website.

Responsible to select such initiatives is the FO in collaboration with the FMO. Strengthening bilateral relations is an overall objective of the financial mechanisms.

2. Objective of the Call

This Call shall support initiatives aiming at enhancing cooperation and improved mutual knowledge and understanding between NGOs and legal entities in Greece and the Donor States in the field of “Local Development & Poverty Reduction”.

The objective of the Programme “**Local Development & Poverty Reduction**” is to strengthen social and economic cohesion, supporting the following areas:

- Social and economic development in specific geographic areas
- Anti-discriminatory activities focusing on groups vulnerable to social and economic exclusion
- Interventions to increase job prospects
- Interventions to increase job capacity, especially among the most vulnerable
- Quality of and access to social/welfare services
- Networking and policy exchanges between municipalities

Searching for partners for donor partnership projects prior to or during the preparation of a project proposal, the development of such partnerships and the preparation of an application for a donor partnership project, also contribute to bilateral cooperation. Activities such as short-term international exchanges of experiences and know-how, including participation in conferences, seminars and short training courses, to foster communication amongst NGOs and other entities in Greece and the donor states are eligible for funding under the Call for Bilateral Cooperation initiatives.

Priorities for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives include strengthening the capacity and effectiveness of Greek NGOs and other entities, and the exchange of good practices between national NGOs and entities in Greece and the donor states. Particular emphasis will be given to areas of concern, such as civic engagement and partnerships with local authorities, sharing of knowledge and best practices at a local/regional/ national level and developing joint strategies aimed at reducing poverty, development of activities aimed at promoting equal opportunities for vulnerable groups, awareness-raising and integration in relation to asylum seekers and migrants, cooperation between local authorities and private and civil society actors, supporting cross-sectoral, socially innovative approaches, for example through re-training and/or participative capacity-development methods to address unemployment in particular groups, especially young people and cultural and ethnic minorities.

Each supported initiative must be aligned with the respective outcome and outputs of the Bilateral Initiatives Fund, as described in the Guidelines for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives and be quantified according to its nature and objectives. For more details about the outcome, outputs, and indicators, kindly consult Chapter 6 of the Guidelines for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives.

A partnership database (<https://ngonorway.org/partners/>) has also been established by the Norwegian Helsinki Committee in order to facilitate the search for potential partners. Potential applicants are advised to register and add a brief description about their organization and search for potential partners among interested Norwegian institutions, NGOs, municipalities, companies, and other bodies.

3. Eligible Applicants

Applicants for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives must comply with the general conditions of the Programme, as set forth in the Guideline.

Apart from these, applications must also meet the following specific conditions:

Partners of the Pre-defined organizations (The European Wergeland Center, SolidarityNow & The Municipality of Athens (ADDMA)) in the bilateral initiatives could be NGOs registered in Greece or legal entities established in the donor states. Additionally, eligible to apply as partners of the Pre-defined above mentioned organizations, could be non-profit institutions of local government of the Donor States and similar also on the Greek side.

- At least one entity from the Donor States, relevant to achieving the cooperation objectives, must be involved in any initiative.
- Each entity, either Applicant or Partner under the present call, can receive funding for up to 2 Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives

Synergies among the three pre-defined organizations (The European Wergeland Center, SolidarityNow & The Municipality of Athens (ADDMA)), and other potential eligible organizations/partners, within the same application , are strongly encouraged.

4. Indicative list of Activities

The proposed Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives may comprise, in general terms, of all activities aiming to deepen the contacts and enhance the collaboration of Greek NGOs with entities from the Donor States.

Cooperation between beneficiary and donor state entities facilitated through the FO.

A list of indicative types of activities, eligible follows (the list is non-exhaustive):

- visits aiming at deepening partnerships across sectors and through specific common activities;
- networking, exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, technology, experience and best practice;
- visits by NGO experts / experts from Donor States entities to Greece for training / coaching purposes – and vice versa;

- attendance or organization of conferences or workshops with a concrete impact on bilateral partnerships and relations;
- technical cooperation and exchange of experts
- capacity building and short term training, digital workshops
- data collection, reports, studies and publications
- campaigns, exhibitions and promotional material
- Any other activities aiming at strengthening bilateral relations between civil society organizations and other entities in the Donors States.

This list is non-exhaustive and is meant as an example of possible activities.

5. Location of Initiatives

The activities foreseen in the Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives may take place in Greece and/or in the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway). In well justified cases bilateral cooperation initiatives may take place in other locations or even have a digital element/ phase. Digital cooperation may also be supported in case of travel restrictions due to Covid.

6. SIZE OF GRANTS

The total amount for funding under this call is € 50,000.

Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives can be supported up to a maximum rate of 100% of the eligible costs, with a maximum grant of € 16,000 per application or higher than 16K and up to 50K if the two or three pre-defined organizations will create synergies under this Call.

7. Eligible expenses

Eligible expenses are those actually incurred by the bilateral initiative Promoter or Partner, which meet the following criteria:

- 1) they are incurred between the first and final dates of eligibility of a bilateral initiative as specified in the bilateral initiative contract. The end date for the eligibility period of the Bilateral Fund is 30 October 2024.
- 2) they are connected with the subject of the bilateral initiative and they are indicated in the estimated overall budget of the initiative
- 3) they are proportionate and necessary for the implementation of the bilateral initiative
- 4) they must be used for the sole purpose of achieving the objective(s) of the bilateral initiative and its expected outcome(s), in a manner consistent with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness

5) they are identifiable and verifiable, through being recorded in the accounting records of the promoter and determined according to the applicable accounting standards and generally accepted accounting principles.

Having regard to the principle of proportionality, travel costs, including subsistence allowance, may be calculated as a lump sum. For details of lump sums please refer to the instructions.

Indicative types of eligible expenses: the following expenses are eligible for funding, under the call for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives. The list is indicative and non-exhaustive:

- a) registration fees and travel costs for participation in conferences, seminars, courses, meetings and workshops, as well as the acquisition of support materials needed for this purpose
- b) travel costs concerning working visits abroad, to facilitate collaboration and exchange of information between Greek NGOs and other entities and entities in the Donor States
- c) travel and salary costs, for expert exchanges
- d) costs of organizing conferences, seminars, courses, meetings and workshops
- e) publicity and communication activities
- f) costs of purchasing data (statistical or otherwise) essential for the preparation of projects
- g) digital

8. Period of Eligibility

The final eligibility date for the selected projects is the 30 October 2024. The eligible time period for relevant expenses will be defined in the bilateral initiative contract. Only expenses incurred from the entry into force of the bilateral contract to its end date will be eligible.

9. Submission of applications

This call shall remain open **from 3/03/2023 until 21/04/2023** time 23:59 (Greek Local Time). The proposal shall be submitted both in English and Greek. Any other documentation written in any other language other than Greek shall be officially translated in English.

Submission of applications is made electronically, via a link provided in FO's website, under the Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives section. After verification of the applicants' email, the applicants shall upload all required documents. Applicants must fill in the Application and Budget Form as provided on FO's site and submit it together with all supporting documents.

Supporting official legal documentation should be sent along with the application. In addition, physical copies stamped by the relevant authorities should be submitted to the FO only by the successful applicants.

Please refer to the Guideline for more information and clarifications related to various topics such as eligibility criteria; eligibility of costs; excluded costs and selection and evaluation criteria.

Important: Only completed applications will be considered for evaluation and selection.

Templates of documents for the submission of projects:

Template No1 Application of the project

Template No2 Budget of the project

Template No3 Partnership declaration Template



10. Right to appeal

Candidates whose applications will be rejected for not complying with the administrative and eligibility criteria will be informed directly by email and they have the right to appeal within five (5) working days. The right of appeal may be exercised only once per applicant. The appeal must be fully justified and submitted electronically via email to the email address appeals@localdevelopment-eeagrants.gr, no later than 20:00 Greek local time, of the 5th (fifth) day upon the receipt of the letter of rejection. The appeal will be considered by the Appeal Committee of the Programme and applicants are informed of the result of their appeal within ten (10) working days. The decision on the appeal will be irrevocable.

11. Contact Information

Questions related to the present call, must be sent by email to the address below:

Fund Operator Email address: info@localdevelopment-eeagrants.gr

Subject: Questions - Bilateral Initiatives

No individual replies will be given to questions.

For more information visit our website: Website: www.asylumandmigration-eeagrants.gr, where you can find all information and documentation relating to this Call, including the Application Form, Budget Form and Instructions for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives.