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INTERNATIONAL
CLIMATE
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Implemented by



Contracting Authority:

**Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
(GIZ) GmbH**

Decarbonisation and Climate Resilience in the Eastern Partnership - EU4ClimateResilience

Call for Proposals

Project reference: NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2023/442-068

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1. Decarbonisation and Climate Resilience in the Eastern Partnership (EU4ClimateResilience)

1.1. Background

The Multi-Donor Action “EU4ClimateResilience” is jointly co-financed by the European Union and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), and implemented by GIZ and OECD. EU4ClimateResilience is implemented as part of the BMUV-funded project ‘Promoting Green Deal Readiness in the Eastern Partnership Countries’ (PROGRESS). This complementarity and implementation of both the Action and PROGRESS by GIZ and OECD therefore reflects the Team Europe approach.

EU4ClimateResilience supports the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in improving climate change and adaptation policies to achieve the mitigation and adaptation goals and targets under the Paris Agreement (PA) and related to bilateral agreements with the EU. This is achieved inter alia by technical support for the NDC 2025 up-date, improving the regulatory framework as well as further improving the institutional capacities to update the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), elaborate and implement Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems and mainstream climate change into sectoral and regional policies. The Action also acts on a local level by supporting the implementation of local climate adaptation projects, increasing the preparedness and resilience of cities and municipalities against short- and long-term climate risks. To mobilise additional sustainable investments, the introduction of innovative financial instruments such as green bonds will be supported. In Ukraine, the Action will address the reconstruction needs.

Local governments play a crucial role in mitigating the effects of climate change, all the more so when considering that 80% of energy consumption and CO₂ emissions is associated with cities. The European Commission launched the “Covenant of Mayors” in 2008 to support the efforts deployed by local authorities in the implementation of sustainable energy policies. The Covenant is open to all cities deciding to join, including those outside the European Union. Covenant of Mayors signatory towns and cities formally commit themselves to go beyond the objectives of EU energy policy in terms of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the implementation of Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP), a streamlined planning tool outlining the practical measures and policies that cities will implement to achieve their objectives.

This specific grant scheme aims to support the local authorities in Eastern Partnership countries in implementing their Sustainable Action Plans (SECAPs) under the Covenant of Mayors East, in particular by developing demonstration projects in line with these SECAPs. The pilot projects shall provide the basis for replicating similar initiatives in other municipalities and will focus on climate adaptation, including but not limited to urban biodiversity, forests and forest belts, green roofs, green walls and vertical gardens, rain water management and water retention landscape, etc. through both soft and hard infrastructure.

1.2. Objective/ Purpose of the Call for Proposals

The overall objective of this Call for Proposals is to enable local authorities in the Eastern Partnership countries to implement concrete climate adaptation projects as part of their SECAPs under the Covenant of Mayors and thus bridge the gap between the SECAPs and their practical implementation.

Projects should demonstrate the benefits of climate adaptation, including on healthy ecosystems and biodiversity with a focus on nature-based solutions and should also contribute to making national authorities more aware of, and responsive to, the advantages of stronger involvement of local authorities in policy domains that have a direct impact on them.

Next to the implementation of the SECAPs, the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) pose a further challenge for the local actors. Therefore, this call for proposal also aims to create a bridge between the proposed activities and the targets of NAPs carried out in Eastern Partnership countries. Within NAPs, solutions based on multi-directional actions are being implemented by EaP countries to prevent climate vulnerabilities and gradually adapt to climate changes. For this purpose, countries are working on multi-purpose strategies and plans for the implementation of various plans at the national and sectoral levels.

1.3. Scope

Activities that can be funded might include, but are not limited to:

- Urban biodiversity/forests – planting a selection of tree species that are more resilient to water and heat stresses, diversification of tree species, increased use of runoff water for watering trees, automatic irrigation and control of water leaks.

- Green roofs, green walls and vertical gardens - lowering indoor temperatures and absorbing rainwater, thus reducing flood risk. They also provide biodiversity and social aesthetic benefits, serve for improving air quality and education purposes.
- Forest belts – using afforestation/reforestation practices applying the ecosystem approach and scaling up territories covered with forest vegetation.
- Rain water management - implementing the blue and green infrastructure components and modernisation of the rain water sewage system.
- Desalination of mineralized water/seawater to manage water resources more effectively and increase water availability.
- Water retention landscape - restoring the full water cycle and reducing vulnerability to climate change and extreme events such as droughts, water scarcity and floods
- Developing early warning systems and implementation of community-based disaster risk reduction and management schemes;
- Implementation of climate-friendly activities for the improvement of irrigation systems and greening works in cities and parks
- Designing and developing biodiversity friendly green zones in cities that enable expansion of sheltering areas for wild species
- Improvements in the ability of local authorities (municipalities and executive powers) to plan, implement, and manage sustainable energy and climate resilience projects.
- All types of nature-based solutions enabling climate change adaptation and activities outlined in the SECAP in the frame of climate change adaptation and nature-based solutions

Priorities

- The Project seeks to finance projects that are **replicable** in the country or in the Eastern Partnership region;
- Applicants are invited to make the best use of locally available resources (engineers, energy auditors, sustainability experts, construction companies, etc.) and of locally available renewable energy sources;
- The priority shall be given to applications that show a **genuine demonstration effect** and have a potential to be replicated in the country of application based on the implementation of best practices and including a communication package to disseminate the information on the results achieved.

1.4. Budget

The overall indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals for all 5 EaP countries is 4 million EUR. Each demonstration project shall have a value of in between 200,000 and 600,000 EUR. The Contracting Authority reserves the right not to award all available funds. Applicants must commit to a minimum of 5% of co-financing.

At least one demonstration project will be selected for a medium-sized municipality (between 50 000 and 250 000 inhabitants).

2. RULES FOR THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2.1. How to apply and procedures to follow

2.1.1. Phase 1. Concept note

Concept note content

Applications must be submitted in accordance with the concept note instructions annexed to these guidelines (Annex A). Applicants must apply in English.

In the concept note, applicants must only provide an estimate of the amount of contribution requested from the contracting authority. Only the applicant invited to submit a full application in the second phase must present a detailed budget.

Any error or major discrepancy related to the points listed in the concept note instructions may lead to the rejection of the concept note. Clarifications will only be requested when information provided is unclear and thus prevents the contracting authority from conducting an objective assessment. Hand-written concept notes will not be accepted.

Please note that only the concept note form will be evaluated. It is therefore of utmost importance that this document contains ALL relevant information concerning the action. No additional annexes should be sent. Applications that are submitted late, incomplete, or are non-responsive may result in the rejection of the proposal.

Where and how to send concept notes

The concept note must be submitted in a compressed zip-folder to the email address artem.sadomov@giz.de and anna.ivaneta@giz.de.

It is required to send the below mentioned application package by email. The original documents will be required upon necessity.

Deadline for submission of concept notes

The deadline for the submission of concept notes is 16 October 2024.

Any concept note submitted after the deadline will be rejected.

Further information about concept notes

An information session on this Call for Proposals will be held online. The tentative date is set for 10 October 2024.

Questions may be sent by e-mail no later than 7 days before the deadline for the submission of concept notes to the address(es) below, indicating clearly the reference of the Call for Proposals:

E-mail address: artem.sadomov@giz.de and anna.ivaneta@giz.de

The contracting authority has no obligation to provide clarifications to questions received after this date. Replies will be given no later than 3 days before the deadline for submission of concept notes.

2.1.2. Phase 2. Full proposal

Full application forms

An applicant invited to submit a full application form following pre-selection of their concept note must do so using the application form annexed to these guidelines (Annex B). Applicants should then keep strictly to the format of the application form and fill in the paragraphs and pages in order.

Please complete the full application form carefully and as clearly as possible so that it can be assessed properly and must be handed in in English. Clarifications will only be requested when information provided is unclear and thus prevents the contracting authority from conducting an objective assessment.

Hand-written applications will not be accepted. Please note that only the full application form and the published annexes which have to be filled in will be transmitted to the evaluators. It is therefore of utmost importance that these documents contain ALL the relevant information concerning the action. No supplementary annexes should be sent.

Where and how to send application forms

The full application form must be submitted in a compressed zip-folder to the email address artem.sadomov@giz.de and anna.ivaneta@giz.de.

It is required to send the below mentioned application package by email. The original documents will be required upon necessity.

Deadline for submission of full application form

The deadline for the submission of applications will be indicated in the letter sent to the applicants whose application has been pre-selected. The applicants will have a total of 6 weeks to finalize the full application form. Any application submitted after the deadline will be rejected.

Further information about full application forms

Questions may be sent by e-mail no later than 14 days before the deadline for the submission of full applications to the addresses below, indicating clearly the reference of the Call for Proposals:

E-mail address: artem.sadomov@giz.de and anna.ivaneta@giz.de

The contracting authority has no obligation to provide clarifications to questions received after this date. Replies will be given no later than 7 days before the deadline for submission of full proposals.

No individual replies will be given. All questions and answers as well as other important notices to applicants during the course of the evaluation procedure will be shared with all applicants.

2.2. Selection and evaluation of applications

2.2.1. Phase 1: Evaluation of concept notes

Concept notes will be examined and evaluated by the Contracting Authority. All concept notes submitted by applicants will be assessed according to the following minimum criteria:

- **Legal status:** The lead applicant and co-applicant(s) is registered as a legal entity, for at least three (3) years at the time of the submission of the application;
- **Legal Status/ CoM/ SECAP:** The lead applicant acts with a minimum of one and a maximum of two co-applicant(s). Either the lead applicant or the co-applicant must be a local authority having signed up to CoM and submitted a SECAP.Public-benefit status;

- **Non-Profit Status:** The lead applicant as well as co-applicant(s) have a non-profit status
- **Financial Capacity:** The lead applicant provides evidence that it has a proper accounting system with qualified personnel, and which meets international standards
- **Ownership:** Applicants provide a motivation letter signed by the Mayor's office that guarantees the City's support of the Demo-project (financially or in kind), as well as the establishment of a joint working group
- **Budget:** Grant amount falls under the requirement of a minimum of 200.000, maximum 600.000 EUR plus a minimum of 5% in co-financing
- **Time:** The project timeline is a minimum of 24 months and a maximum of 30 months
- **Thematic:** The action proposed must clearly relate to the implementation of submitted SECAP
- **Thematic:** Environmental impacts of the proposed action are considered (assessment of the environmental consequences of a plan, policy, program, or actual projects prior to the decision to move forward with the submitted SECAP)
- **Innovation:** The proposal clearly highlights its innovative approach to promote nature-based solutions, actions for climate adaptation, energy efficiency and efficient use of natural resources (measure within the urban context in regards to soil, land, water or air)
- **General:** The lead applicant has not submitted more than one application as a lead applicant. The actions proposed cannot be situated inside occupied territories or within a 50 kilometer radius from areas affected by active military conflict

Only concept notes that fulfilled the criteria will be invited to submit their full application.

2.2.2. Phase 2: Evaluation of full proposal

The quality of the applications, including the proposed budget and capacity of the applicants and affiliated entity(ies), will be evaluated using the evaluation criteria in the evaluation grid below.

The evaluation grid is divided into 2 heading sections and subsections. Each subsection of the evaluation grid will be assessed on whether the criteria has been fulfilled or not by a 1-10 rating. The score for each subsection is determined by the rating multiplied by the predefined weight in percentage. The two applications with the highest score and that are eligible to receive funding by the contracting authority will be awarded.

	Technical Evaluation	Weight
1	Assessment of technical-methodological design	
1.1	Strategy and Cooperation	
1.1.1	Statement of the objectives, outcomes and activities to get there	5%
1.1.2	Strategy for establishing cooperation and continuous interaction between the relevant actors in the defined area of responsibility	3%
1.2	Steering	
1.2.1	Approaches and procedures for steering the measures with the co-applicants and project partners	5%
1.2.2	Description of result monitoring and the associated challenges	3%
1.3	Processes	
1.3.1	Presentation and explanation of the overall implementation plan, work steps, milestones, schedules	5%
1.3.2	Presentation of the approaches and expected contributions to the implementation of SECAP	5%
1.3.3	Presentation of the approaches and expected contributions to the Covenant of Mayors targets on Climate Change Adaptation (the project outlines that climate change adaptation will increase/improve)	3%
1.4	Learning / innovation / scaling up	
1.4.1	Presentation of the innovative character and how know-how technology transfer is promoted. (Project promotes knowledge sharing, innovative character, technology transfer in climate change adaptation and resilience-building efforts across country)	2%
1.4.2	Capacity-building and knowledge sharing is ensured. With the planned activities project provide training and support to local stakeholders, government agencies, and civil society organizations	2%
1.4.3	Proposal has a visibility potential that would result in better awareness about Nature Based Solutions, Climate Change Adaptation Measures within urban context	2%
1.4.4	Description of scaling-up opportunity(-ies). (e.g. description of potentials for expanding similar measures beyond the focus area (neighbourhood area, another municipality/region or even greater national level))	2%
1.5	Project management of the Lead applicant	
1.5.1	Approaches and procedure for coordination with the project EU4ClimateResilience	5%

1.5.2	Overall personnell assignment plan (who, when, what work steps) incl. explanation and specification of expert months, consultings needed, private sector involvment, etc.	3%
1.6	Others	
1.6.1	The proposal considers the impact of climate change on human health and provides the means to support sustainable livelihoods. It addresses both immediate and long-term health and well-being concerns	3%
1.6.2	Overall language and presentation	2%
	Total sub score (Technical methodological design)	50%
2	Assessment of proposed staff	
2.1	Project Manager (Lead applicant)	
2.1.1	Qualification	4%
2.1.2	Leadership/Management Experience	4%
2.1.3	General professional experience	4%
2.1.4	Specific professional experience	4%
2.1.5	Other	3%
2.2	Team Leader (Co-applicant)	
2.2.1	Qualification	2%
2.2.2	Leadership/Management Experience	2%
2.2.3	General professional experience	2%
2.2.4	Specific professional experience	2%
2.2.5	Other	1%
2.3	Expertpool	
2.3.1	Qualification	3%
2.3.2	General professional experience	3%
2.3.3	Specific professional experience	3%
2.3.4	Other	2%
2.4	Administration and Finances	
2.4.1	Qualification	3%
2.4.2	General professional experience	3%
2.4.3	Specific professional experience	3%
2.4.4	Other	2%
	Total sub score (Proposed staff)	50%
	Total score Technical Evaluation (1 and 2)	100%
	Financial and Administrative Evaluation	Weight
1	The project budget distribution is clear and balanced (management costs, versus implementation costs etc.)	20%

2	The applicant has a proper accounting system and is capable to prepare and manage the action, submit payment requests, settle funds and submit all the required financial reports as well as narrative reports with the co-applicant(s)	20%
3	Lead applicant and/or co-applicant is committed to co-finance the demo project	20%
4	The applicant provides an overview of project's continuity in respect to financial sustainability.	15%
5	Analysis of the risks for timely completion of the project is provided, including an adaptive management plan for addressing those risks	15%
6	Per capita GHG emission reduction relative to the proposed budget is considered and calculated	10%
Total score (Financial and Administration)		100%

2.3. Submission of the supporting documents for selected applications

An applicant that has been provisionally selected or placed on the reserve list will be informed in writing by the contracting authority. It might be requested to supply additional documents in order to allow the contracting authority to verify the eligibility of the applicant, and (if any) of the co-applicant(s).

2.4. Notification of the contracting authority's decision

The applicant will be informed in writing of the contracting authority's decision concerning their application.

Indicative timetable

	Date
Opening date for call for proposals	25.09.2024
Deadline for requesting the clarifications from Contracting Authority	09.10.2024
Information session	10.10.2024
Last date on which clarifications are issued by Contracting Authority	13.10.2024
Deadline for submission of Concept Notes	16.10.2024
Information to applicants on opening, administrative checks and concept note evaluation (Step 1)	28.10.2024
Invitations to submit Full Application Form	28.10.2024
Deadline for submission of Full Application Form	09.12.2024

Information to applicants on the evaluation of the Full Application Form (Step 2)	20.01.2025
Notification of award	20.01.2025
Contract signature	tbd

This indicative timetable may be updated by the contracting authority during the procedure.

3. LIST OF ANNEXES

Annex A: Concept Note (Word Format);

Annex B: Grant Application Form (Word Format);

Annex C: Budget (Excel Format);

Annex D: Logical Framework (Excel Format);

Annex E: Activity Plan (Gantt Chart);

Annex F: Applicant's and co-Applicant's experience;

Annex G: Checklist of documents to be handed in;

Annex H: CVs of the project team members demonstrating competency and any experience relevant to execution on the proposed project:

- Overall Project Manager of the lead applicant;
- Team Leader of the main co-applicant;
- Key experts;
- Administration and Finance.