

The EU Global Diaspora Facility

D4D Grants call for applications

Clarifications note 2

The following questions and answers are published following the Information session on 29 November 2024 and receipt of requests for clarifications from potential applicants between 28/11/2024 and 06/12/2024. The Clarifications note is available in English and will be available in French by 13 December 2025, with the English version prevailing.

Most of the questions received can be answered by carefully reading the Call for applications guidelines. Duplicate questions were mentioned only once and minor edits to the questions were made for clarity. In some cases, questions were reorganised or split for better alignment with the structure and sections of this note.

Please note that in the interest of equal treatment of applicants, ICMPD does not give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, project or specific activities. Therefore, questions received in this regard may be mentioned but indirectly answered, or not mentioned to avoid repeating the same style of questions.

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Definitions

Diaspora organisation

Questions received:

- 1. Can you please elaborate on the meaning of a "diaspora organisation"?
- 2. If an organisation is not officially identified as a "diaspora organisation" but is mainly composed of people from the diaspora, is it eligible?
- 3. What if the diaspora organisation does not represent a single diaspora nation but includes people from different diaspora nations?
- 4. [Should] members be born in a non-EU country to be considered diaspora?
- 5. Are second-generation organisations considered as diaspora organisations, for this grant?
- 6. Does the size of diaspora matter to be eligible?

Recognising that the definition of "diaspora" can vary widely, EUDiF has aimed to be inclusive in our call for applications, allowing organisations to highlight how they identify as a "diaspora organisation" in a way that best reflects their unique characteristics. To describe what characterises your organisation as a "diaspora organisation" the applicant may refer but not limit to "your board or member composition, management structure, your projects and activities focus and other elements" which you will have to describe in the Grant application form (Annex A) "section A: Applicant and associate organisation information" on page 2: "Representation of diaspora on your organisation."

The organisation may represent diaspora from any generation and from one or more eligible countries listed under Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) regulation.

Country of origin

Questions received:

7. What is the country of origin? Is this the country of the organisation making the proposal?

Answer from <u>Call for Applications Guidelines</u> section "Project Proposal: What is the funding for" on page 6:

"Grants will be awarded only to project proposals that focus their planned activities and results on directly benefiting the populations in the country of origin of the organisation applying."

"A current list of countries **[of origin]** under NDICI regulation includes <u>DG INTPA partner</u> countries and <u>DG NEAR partner countries</u>. Countries benefiting from the Instrument for Preaccession Assistance are not eligible under D4D Grants (including Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine)."

Complementary answers:

The country of origin is where the project will be mainly implemented (a country listed under the NDICI regulation), which is different from the country of registration of the applicant (EU27, Norway or Switzerland).

Eligibility of applicant

Type

Questions received:

- 1. Is the grant open to supporting any diaspora community?
- 2. Is a university or research institute eligible to apply?
- 3. We are a global network of organisations based in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Can we apply as a consortium?
- 4. Can a professional working at a university or research centre in the diaspora initiate such a project with an organisation in the country of origin?
- 5. We are the Afghan Association in Örebro, based and registered in Sweden. We have an Erasmus ID number and EU PIC number. Is any additional registration required for the Afghan Association?

Duration of registration

Questions received:

- 6. Can a newly created NGO apply for this grant?
- 7. Can we apply if we are not registered yet?
- 8. Is it possible for a new organisation (one year old) to take part in the project?
- 9. Can an organisation that has been existing for years, but whose activities were paused due to legal issues, be considered as having existed for more than 18 months as stated in the eligibility criteria?

Location

Questions received:

- 10. Does the organisation have to be based in Suriname and registered in Europe? Additionally, does someone have to lead it from Suriname, or can it be led by a team in Europe with regular travel?
- 11. Is Mali eligible?
- 12. Are NGOs from Türkiye eligible?
- 13. Can a diaspora entity registered outside the EU apply as a lead applicant?
- 14. For applicants in Morocco, can we submit our application independently, or must we collaborate with a partner based in the European Union?
- 15. Is Guinea an eligible country, given that there is no civilian government?
- 16. Can a Jamaican Diaspora organisation in an EU country be eligible to apply?
- 17. Can a UK-based diaspora apply?

18. What if the organisation is registered in the UK but serves Europeans, such as Romanians?

Answer from Call for applications guidelines section "Applicant: Who can apply" on page 5:

"The lead applicant is a legally registered entity in an EU member state, Switzerland, or Norway and operating for over 18 months at the moment of the general deadline for application submission. Entities may include, but are not limited to, diaspora organisations, civil society organisations, community-based organisations, associations and social enterprises. The entity should be not-for-profit and should represent diasporas from countries listed in the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) regulation."

"A current list of countries under NDICI regulation includes <u>DG INTPA partner countries</u> and <u>DG NEAR partner countries</u>. Countries benefiting from the Instrument for <u>Pre-accession Assistance</u> are not eligible under D4D Grants (including Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine)."

"The lead applicant must collaborate with one associate organisation during the implementation. Partnering with an associate organisation based in the country of origin (e.g., civil society organisation, public entity, private sector) will reinforce the sustainability and impact of the project." ... "An associate organisation does not have to meet the eligibility criteria referred to above [applied to the lead applicant] as it will not be considered as a coapplicant. It will thus not become a party to any Grant Contract concluded with ICMPD, and therefore, it is not eligible to manage any of the received funding itself."

Answer from Call for applications guidelines section "Overview" on page 4:

"D4D Grants aim to promote sustainable development by supporting diaspora-led initiatives in the **country of origin** in the areas of climate, economy, education and health."

Complementary answers:

Only legally registered entities are eligible, and D4D grants cannot be awarded to private persons. Aside from requested information in the application package, no additional information, such as an Erasmus ID number or EU PIC number, are necessary at this stage.

As long as the application meets the eligibility criteria, including those related to thematic areas and target counties, it will be considered for further evaluation. There are no further restrictions on the diaspora communities eligible for support through the grant.

To meet the eligibility criteria on the duration of the registration, a legal entity must have been established at least 18 months prior to the general deadline for applications submission (15 January 2025). The operational capacity check will take place after the

administrative and eligibility checks are completed, and the application has successfully passed said checks.

The lead applicant must be registered in an EU member state, Switzerland, or Norway. Diaspora entities or any other organisations registered outside of the EU Member States, Switzerland or Norway, are not eligible.

There are no specific requirements in this call regarding the location of the individual leading the project or project members. It is up to the lead applicant to determine the project's management structure.

Multiple proposals

Questions received:

- 19. Can we submit more than one project?
- 20. Could one organisation apply for two independent projects?
- 21. Can an organisation submit two projects in different countries?
- 22. We are present in 15 nations in Europe. Are we limited to submit one application?
- 23. Can different lead applicant work with the same associate organisation in the country of origin?

Answer from <u>Call for applications guidelines</u> section "Applicant: Who can apply" on page 5:

"Lead applicants and associate organisations may only submit one application; multiple submissions will result in disqualification."

Associate organisation

Type

Questions received:

- 1. Can an [associate] organisation be a municipality or ministry in the origin country?
- 2. Should the associate organisation be from the private or public sphere, or should it be an NGO?
- 3. Can a university in the diaspora country be a local partner?
- 4. Can a local branch of the diaspora organisation in Europe be considered a local partner?
- 5. Must the partner organisation also be a non-profit organisation?
- 6. Can the head of the village sign as a partner?

Duration of registration

Questions received:

- 7. Does the associate organisation also have to be registered for at least 18 months to be eligible for the project?
- 8. Can an association from Romania apply in consortium with a newly founded association in Switzerland?

Location

Questions received:

- 9. We work for Sudanese refugees with partner in country of destination (Egypt) due to the war in Sudan. Can we still consider them an associate organisation?
- 10. Is the association's partner a local partner in Africa, where the project is located? Is the technical partner in Europe necessary?

Lead applicant and associate organisation

Questions received:

- 11. Is it possible to apply without associating with a diaspora organisation?
- 12. Can a diaspora organisation partner with more than one associate organisation in two different countries of origin?
- 13. Can the lead applicant partner with more than one associate organisation in one country, in different geographic zones?

- 14. Must the main applicant have worked with the associate organisation before, or can it be an entire new relationship between the lead organisation and the partner organisation?
- 15. Who should write the support letter, the applicant organisation or the associate?
- 16. Can the CVs [as part of the application package] include those of the associate organisation?
- 17. In the grant application form, the associate association is asked to prove that it has already been active in the field for other similar projects. If their project is not ongoing, can the association still participate in the application?

Contracts and budget

Questions received:

- 18. Will the contract be with the diaspora organisation, the associate organisation or both?
- 19. Is the grant mainly for the diaspora organisation, the partner organisation in the country of origin, or both?
- 20. Is there guidance on how the budget can be distributed between a diaspora organisation and a partner organisation in the country of origin?
- 21. Is it possible to include in the budget the payment of staff employed by the local partner (a non-profit organisation) in the country of origin, as well as the running costs of its office?
- 22. The guidelines state: "An associate organisation does not have to meet the eligibility criteria referred to above as it will not be considered as a co-applicant. It will thus not become a party to any Grant Contract concluded with ICMPD, and therefore, it is not eligible to manage any of the received funding itself." Our partner is also mobilising its teams to carry out the action. Should we therefore consider them as consultants?

Answer from <u>Call for applications guidelines</u> section "Applicant: Who can apply?" on page 5:

"The lead applicant **must** collaborate with **one** associate organisation during the implementation. Partnering with an associate organisation **based in the country of origin** (e.g., civil society organisation, public entity, private sector) will reinforce the sustainability and impact of the project. The lead applicant must provide proof of partnership through a signed Letter of support **from the associate organisation**, confirming their commitment to the project if funded. An associate organisation **does not have to meet** the eligibility criteria referred to above **as it will not be considered as a co-applicant**. It will thus **not become a party to any Grant Contract concluded with ICMPD**, and therefore, it is not eligible to

manage any of the received funding itself. An associate organisation can **only apply onc**e for this call for applications"

Complementary answers:

The associate organisation may be a branch of the main applicant that is based in the country of origin or an individual if they represent the local community.

In the application, only one associate organisation is required. Should the lead applicant deem it necessary to have more than one associate organisation, they can include information about the different stakeholders in different parts of the Annex A, Application form (e.g., in Section C: Detailed description of your project, "Role of each actor" or in Section E: Other, "18. Other remarks").

It is not an eligibility requirement for the lead applicant and associate organisation to have previously collaborated, for the associate organisation to demonstrate activity in a specific area, nor for the lead applicant to have a (technical) partner in Europe.

In case of award, the contract will be signed solely with the **lead applicant** who will become the *grant beneficiary* upon contract signature. Associate organisation or any other partners will not be direct beneficiaries of the project funds. As a result, the entire project budget will be managed by the *grant beneficiary*.

The associate organisation members may be considered as consultants during implementation provided that they are recruited or their services are procured by the lead applicant, who will later become the grant beneficiary in case of award of funding.

Project staff can only be employed by the grant beneficiary (lead applicant), either on a full-time or part-time basis. If the grant beneficiary is able to hire local staff and needs to incur costs for office rent, these expenses may be considered eligible for the action, as long as they meet the eligibility criteria specified in <u>Annex II: General Conditions</u> of the Standard Grant Contract.

The CVs of associate organisation members are not required.

Eligibility of project proposal

Intervention area

Question received:

- 1. Can an organisation propose a project for more than one area of intervention?
- 2. Can we mix the four components in the same project?
- 3. If our organisation caters more than one category (Economy, education and health for example), should we focus the application on one dimension or can we argue with the intersection of those dimensions?
- 4. What is meant by climate? Does it include environmental protection and sustainability projects?
- 5. Can the application be related to the construction of private school to create local jobs?
- 6. Would it be possible to apply focusing on areas of expertise such as human rights, accountability, transitional justice, and political transition, even though they are not directly linked to the specific focus areas of the call?
- 7. Could an organisation that deals with the adaptation of former political prisoners including their retraining participate?
- 8. Can fraud prevention projects be submitted if they are positioned as educational initiatives, for example through a film festival or workshops?
- 9. Can an organisation apply without having a reference in the same thematic area as the project?

Answer from <u>Call for applications guidelines</u> section "Project proposal: What is the funding for" on page 6:

"The project proposed promotes sustainable development in the country of origin in <u>one or</u> more of the following areas:

- Climate: Projects that address climate change by promoting environmentally friendly practices, such as sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and conservation efforts.
- Economy: Initiatives that focus on boosting local economies by creating job opportunities, supporting entrepreneurship, investment, and fostering sustainable business practices.
- Education: Projects that aim to improve educational outcomes, enhance skills development, and provide technical and vocational education and training to enhance expertise.

- Health: Efforts that are directed towards improving healthcare access, quality, and outcomes, addressing public health issues, and promoting wellness and preventative care."

Answer from Annex A Grant application form

Section B "General features of your project" question 2 "Intervention area" allows **for multiselections** between the four areas. Select the main target area of intervention if possible. Other areas of intervention mentioned in the above questions may be considered if there is a clear link to the four priority areas of intervention in this Call for applications (Climate, economy, education and health).

In section D "Strategic alignment" of Annex A, some questions allow the applicant to describe the capacity and experience in implementing projects. For example, in question 13 you "Explain how the project you propose matches your organisation's priorities" and in question 14, you "Explain how the proposed activities match your organisation's capacities to implement them".

Duration and timeframes

Questions received:

- 10. What is the minimum timeframe for a project?
- 11. Should implementation start from June 2025?
- 12. Can we apply for funding for a project that has already begun but would end in December 2026?

Answer from <u>Call for applications guidelines</u> section "Project proposal: What is the funding for" on page 6:

"The project's planned duration should be between 6 to 18 months, ending before 31/12/2026."

Complementary answer:

The implementation period will start after the contracting period is complete, which is foreseen between May and June 2025. The contract/implementation start date is tentative and depends on the time required for evaluation, notification, and contracting. Contract/implementation may begin later than June 2025, depending on the needs of the project proposal. The end date cannot extend beyond 31 December 2026.

The project proposal should have its own independent implementation timeline. If the proposal is part of an ongoing initiative or contributes to an existing project, the timeline of the ongoing project should not be applied. Activities and related costs under this funding

mechanism should only be carried out within the contractual timeframe, i.e., within the implementation period of the project funded under this grant.

Answer from Annex A Grant application form:

Section B "General features of your project" question 4 "Duration" allows to specify the duration of the component funded by D4D Grants in months (4.2), in case it is different from the total duration of the project (4.1).

Answer from <u>Call for applications guidelines</u> section "Budget: What goes in the budget?" on page 7:

"An eligible cost, as written in Article 14 of the Grant General Conditions of the Standard Contract, is incurred during implementation..." [of the grant]

Eligibility of activities

Questions received:

- 13. Are there preferred activities?
- 14. Must the project be implemented outside of EU countries?
- 15. Is it acceptable to offer activities in the country of origin in an online format?
- 16. Can we apply with one project that is implemented in two countries?
- 17. [Can] an Afghan Association apply for female education in Afghanistan or will [the project] be implemented just in European countries?

Please note that in the interest of equal treatment of applicants, ICMPD does not give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, project or specific activities.

Answer from <u>Call for applications guidelines</u> section "Project proposal: What is the funding for" on page 6:

"Grants will be awarded only to project proposals that focus their planned activities and results on directly benefiting the populations in the country of origin of the organisation applying.

[...]

Activities target the country of origin exclusively, or both the countries of origin and destination of the applicant. Activities may be implemented:

- Onsite: activities are conducted physically in the location of either the origin or destination country.

- Remotely: Activities are conducted through non-physical means, which can involve digital platforms or offline work that does not require physical presence. Activities done remotely can target countries of origin or destination. This approach enables organisations to provide support and maintain operations without the need for onsite engagement. Activities targeting the country of destination can be included but with a limited scope. The primary focus of the project proposal should be in the country of origin.

Activities targeting the country of destination can be included but with a limited scope. The primary focus of the project proposal should be in the country of origin."

Other

Questions received:

- 18. Are you able to give an example of a past project that had sustainable impact in country of origin, what was that impact, its scale etc.
- 19. Can you give us an indication of the types and examples of eligible actions?
- 20. Is the list of past awarded projects available on the website?

D4D Grants is a pilot activity for EUDiF. Therefore, we do not have the list or examples of previously awarded projects.

Cost

Eligibility of costs

Questions received:

- 1. Will ICMPD pay for travel and hotel cost?
- 2. Does this call cover infrastructure, equipment and the construction of equipment?
- 3. The equipment cost for greenhouse construction materials may include VAT. Is VAT eligible, and should we include it in the budget or select businesses that operate with simplified taxation without VAT?
- 4. Is cost-rated voluntary work eligible as staff costs?
- 5. At what point does the staff have to be employed at the applicant?
- 6. Are projects allowed to provide indirect financial support, such as microcredits, if linked to education and entrepreneurship development?
- 7. [Is] using experts from the UK accepted?

Answer from <u>Call for applications guidelines</u> section "Budget: What goes in the budget" on page 7, also available <u>in Annex II of the Standard Grant Contract</u>, Article 14.

From the guidelines:

Costs must be "incurred during implementation, budgeted and indicated in the overall project budget, necessary for the implementation of the project, identifiable and verifiable, compliant to applicant tax and social legislation, reasonable, justified and comply with the requirements of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency".

"Eligible costs may include: Staff costs [Actual gross salaries, including social security and other related costs may be eligible when they relate to staff time spent on project implementation activities. The costs should be in line with the standard renumeration policies of the lead applicant and should not exceed usual rates], travel costs, project office costs, office utilities, equipment, consumables/supplies, other direct costs and services, taxes and charges, contingency reserve, indirect costs".

"Ineligible costs: Debts and debt service charges (interest), provisions for losses or potential future liabilities, costs declared by the grantee and financed by another project or work programme, currency exchange losses, credits to third parties, in-kind contributions, staff bonuses outside of standard remuneration practices, negative interest charged by banks or other financial institutions, financial support to third parties, costs for expenditure verification, project evaluation, or audit, costs linked to the preparation of the project application."

Complementary answer:

Provided the criteria mentioned above are considered:

- If a cost is not included in the list of ineligible costs, it can be accepted.
- Staff costs, as well as any other costs related to the grant, should be incurred within the
 implementation period of the grant contract. Staff cost should be based on actual costs
 only. Volunteer work is considered in-kind contribution. In-kind contributions are not
 eligible.
- Project staff can only be employed by the grant beneficiary (lead applicant), either on a
 full-time or part-time basis. If the beneficiary employs staff locally and needs to cover
 office costs, these office costs (based on actual expenses) may be considered eligible
 costs for the action, provided they meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the Annex II:
 General Conditions of the Standard Grant Contract.
- VAT is eligible only in case the beneficiary proves that they cannot recover it. Costs incurred under the grant must be compliant to local tax legislation (please refer to the art 14.1 (e) and 14.2 (h) of <u>Annex II</u>: <u>General Conditions</u> of the Standard Grant Contract).

Proportion of costs

Questions received:

- 8. What percentage of the budget is allowed for contingencies and administrative costs?
- 9. Does the budget consider proportion limits per item e.g. how much of total budget can be allocated to human resources or travel costs?
- 10. Is there a limit amount or percentage for the expenses within the destination country?

Answer from <u>Call for applications guidelines</u> section "Budget: What goes in the budget" on page 7:

From the guidelines:

"Contingency reserve: A reserve for contingencies up to 5% of direct eligible costs can be included in the budget. During implementation, it requires prior written authorisation from ICMPD to use the contingency reserve.

Indirect costs: Indirect costs are funded at a flat rate, not exceeding 7% of the total eligible direct costs. The percentage may need justification before the Grant Contract is signed, but no supporting documents are required once the flat rate is set in the contract's Special Conditions."

Complementary answer:

There is no maximum limit or percentage cap for costs or location of cost spending. As mentioned in the guidelines "Activities targeting the country of destination can be included but with a limited scope. The primary focus of the project proposal should be in the country of origin."

Calculation methods and justifications

Questions received:

- 11. All our expenditures to support refugee women will be incurred in Armenia via our partner. Should we use the InforEURO rate to calculate our costs, or will our partner's Bank EUR/AMD rate suffice?
- 12. How do we calculate staff hours. Is there a specific rate by the EU to be applied?
- 13. The costs are based on a "Real Costs" rule or a "Lump Sum"?
- 14. Should we translate all sale contracts/invoices into English with our organisation's certified copy stamp, or will a simple translation without a stamp suffice?
- 15. Non-transformed agricultural products in Armenia are exempt from taxation. When we purchase livestock for refugees, we buy it from peasants with a bank transfer based on a sale contract. Do they need to provide an invoice, or will the sale contract with the price be good enough?

Answer from Annex B Budget sheet "Guidelines" point 5:

"Make sure the budget is realistic and is based on real justification. If it includes too many rough estimates and lump sums, it will not provide a proper tool for planning and control and there is a higher risk of over- or underestimates."

From point 4:

"The justification column should document how the projected amount for costs has been arrived at. It can include the calculation method of the estimated costs, information about quotations received, cost estimates looked up online, etc. Quantify where appropriate; for example state the type and number of items to be purchased (e.g., equipment, tools, etc.), staff number, time required (hours, weeks, months) and measures (e.g., weight, distance, content, etc.) of resources to be consumed.

Complementary answer:

Information on the role of the lead applicant can be found be found in <u>Annex II: General Conditions</u> of the Standard Grant Contract starting page 4 section. According to the same Annex II, the applicable currency exchange rate will be the InfoEURO rates. Please note that

all costs related to the project must be incurred by the grant beneficiary only. Partners, associated entities, or any other stakeholders are not permitted to manage the funds.

There is no need to translate supporting documents or contracts. If additional information or clarification is required, ICMPD will request it in accordance with the contractual conditions outlined in the Annex II: General Conditions of the Standard Grant Contract.

Aside from DSA rates, which can be based on official EU rates as a lump sum, applicants must use only real costs.

Budget ownership and management

Questions received:

- 16. What level of autonomy will our organisation have in overseeing and managing the project budget throughout its implementation?
- 17. If we need to purchase high-tech equipment, can you help us buy subsidised or discounted materials from EU countries?

Answer:

The lead applicant (later "grant beneficiary") is expected to lead on the procurement, purchasing of any items and expert contracting related to the implementation of the project. Minimum mandatory procurement thresholds are defined in the <u>Annex IV of the Standard Grant Contract: Procurement by Grant Beneficiaries</u>. For contractual clauses regarding non-profit principles, please refer to Article 17 of the <u>Annex II: General Conditions</u> of the Standard Grant Contract.

Other

Questions received:

18. Will payments for services be assessed in accordance with the financial laws in force in Belgium? Are there any specific measures relating to the country in which the project is located?

Answer:

Costs incurred under the grant must be compliant to local tax legislation (please refer to the art 14.1 (e) and 14.2 (h) of <u>Annex II: General Conditions</u> of the Standard Grant Contract). All supporting documents that comply with sound financial management practices must be provided to substantiate any costs related to the grant.

Co-financing

Questions received:

- 1. Can the total cost of the project be more than 60 000 EUR? The difference being paid by other partners or local contribution?
- 2. Is there a specific document that is expected for the case of 100% funding?
- 3. Do we have to provide own funds and/or funds from other funding institute?
- 4. What is a valid reason for asking D4D Grants for 100% of the budget?
- 5. Does the absence of own contributions in the budget have a negative impact on the evaluation of the application?
- 6. Can the assessment of impact be negatively affected by having a large amount of cofunding, larger than the grant applied for from EUDiF?
- 7. Can non-financial contributions (e.g., volunteer work) from the diaspora be included as co-financing in the budget?
- 8. How do we pursue, if we intend co-funding by 3rd party partners, but have not secured it yet?

Answer from Call for applications guidelines section "Overview" on page 4:

"Applicants can request an amount from €25,000 to €60,000 depending on the scope of the project and the capacity of the organisation to manage the grant. Applicants should request funding that matches the scale of the proposed activities, rather than automatically requesting the maximum available amount.

Co-financing is not a mandatory requirement. EUDiF may finance up to 100% of the total eligible cost of the project. However, the absence of co-financing should be duly justified in the Grant application form (Annex A). In the event of co-financing, the balance (i.e. the difference between the total costs of the project and the amount requested from the ICMPD) should be financed from sources other than the European Union or ICMPD. Non-cash contributions may also be accepted as co-financing.

Non-cash contributions can include goods, services, or other resources that have a monetary value, that are eligible cost under this call. Examples include, but are not limited to, staff time and meeting venues. Non-cash contributions should be charged on the project, meet all eligibility criteria and thus substantiated by supporting documentation. If these costs are recognised as eligible, they may be counted as a non-cash contribution."

In the <u>Annex A: Application</u>, in the section "3. Budget" on page 3 the applicant is asked to specify the total budget of the project (3.1) and the requested contribution from D4D Grants (3.2) in euros (from 25,000 to 60,000 EUR) if it is requesting a contribution from D4D Grants

that is less that the total budget of your project. Total cost of the project can be higher than 60,000 EUR, however ICMPD contribution cannot exceed the mentioned amount.

The project may receive funding from multiple sources, including your own organisation. In your <u>Budget (Annex B)</u>, please clearly specify the source of funding for each expense to ensure transparency. It is important to avoid any overlap in funding allocations.

From Annex B Budget sheet "guidelines" point 9:

"In sheet "Expected sources of funding" of Budget (Annex B), "other contributions" refers to co-financing. Under "name", the name of the contributor should be stated".

Complementary answers:

It is the beneficiary's responsibility to secure funding. If they are unable to do so, ICMPD will in any case cover the percentage contribution specified in the grant contract.

The budget will be evaluated based on the evaluation criteria available in the guidelines on page 10 section "Budget and cost-effectiveness of the project".

There is no specific document or template adopted to justify requesting 100% of financing from ICMPD. ICMPD does not give specification on what makes up a justification for the absence of co-financing as this greatly depends on the project at hand.

Volunteer work is considered in-kind contribution. In-kind contributions are not eligible under the grant contract. Please refer to Article 14.8 (g) of <u>Annex II: General Conditions</u> of the Standard Grant Contract.

Application process

Questions received:

1. Should we apply in French or English?

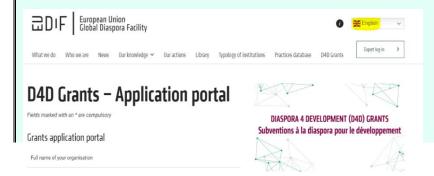
Answer from <u>Call for applications guidelines</u> section "Application process: How to apply?" on page 8:

"The application package consists of the list of documents which must be filled, signed and submitted. Applications must be complete and include all requested information. Incomplete submissions may be disqualified. Any errors or significant discrepancies will result in the rejection of the application:

- 1. Grant application form (Annex A) English or French
- 2. Budget (Annex B) English or French
- 3. Legal entity identification form (Annex C) English
- 4. Operational and financial capacity form (Annex D) English
- 5. Declaration on honour (Annex E) English
- 6. Financial identification form (Annex F) English
- 7. Letter of support English or French
- 8. Curriculum Vitae (CVs) of project team members in applicant organisation English or French"
 - 2. Can you help me change the language in the application portal page?

Answer:

You can change the language of the application portal page or any other page of the EUDiF website at the top right corner of the <u>page</u>, as highlighed in yellow in the image below. You can also consult the website guide <u>D4D Grants</u>: How to apply for a tutorial on how to submit the application package.





3. Our activities are linked to the project objectives, will it be okay to present the main activity as the objective and in the description detail the activities in relation to these objectives? Related to expected results, would it be okay to present our answers as Outcome, output and indicators? Regarding the required resources, should we already include the costs?

Answer from <u>Grant application form (Annex A)</u> section C "Detailed description of your project" starting page 4:

"10. Articulate your solution into one "general objective" statement and up to five "specific objective" statements. List objectives that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound."

"You may include up to ten activities. It is recommended that you link each activity to a specific objective and include at least two activities per specific objective."

"Expected results

Mention baseline values or situation, and target values. Think about tangible outputs, products, services, and results you hope to achieve by implementing the related activity. You should be able to portray them as achievable indicators that you can measure in the future to ensure your implementation is on track."

"Required resources

List the necessary resources (human, financial, material) and quantify them."

4. Is it necessary to provide the organisation's previous financial statements?

Answer from <u>Call for applications guidelines</u> section "APPLICANT: Who can apply" on page 5:

"The lead applicant must have, and be able to demonstrate, the financial and operational capacity needed to undertake the project, as well as the necessary professional competencies and qualifications."

Answer from Annex D Operational and financial capacity form:

Applicants will be asked to specify financial information in Annex D including the overall budget, administrative budget, operational budget, core funding (e.g. Membership contributions), project funding (in percentage) for the current year, current year-1 and current year-2.

5. In Annex D "Operational and financial capacity form" what does "Information about taxation status & registration and exemptions, if applicable (approx. 200 words)" mean?

Answer:

An applicant is expected to provide information on tax status, which might include whether the entity is subject to local or international taxes, what kind of taxes it pays (e.g., income tax, VAT).

An applicant may also indicate if it benefits from any specific tax exemptions or special tax treatments under local law. It can also explain whether the applicant is officially registered as a legal entity (e.g., a non-profit organisation, association, etc.), including any relevant registration numbers, and the country of registration.

This is important for confirming that the organisation is legally recognised and eligible for the grant.

6. Can we apply after January?

Answer from <u>Call for applications guidelines</u> section "Application process: Who can apply" on page 8:

"The application package must be submitted on the <u>EUDiF website</u> before 15 January 2025 23:59 Central European Time (CET)."

Evaluation and selection

Questions received:

- 1. Is there any disadvantage to those organisations that did not participate in your first phase?
- 2. What is the chance of a diaspora organisation that has a capable team to implement an eligible project, but this is their first project?
- 3. Is there a possibility to be notified about the outcome earlier than April 25?
- 4. Are projects that promise strong multiplier effects, such as awareness campaigns adopted by local communities, preferred over projects with direct physical impact?

Answer from <u>Call for applications guidelines</u> section "Evaluation and Selection Process" on page 9:

"The applications will be examined and evaluated by the Evaluation Committee according to the criteria set out in the guidelines. The Evaluation Committee is appointed by ICMPD and may request to receive advice from the EU and other stakeholders where necessary. The applications will be evaluated based on (1) relevance, (2) design of the project, (3) implementation approach, (4) sustainability, (5) budget and cost effectiveness and (6) financial and operational capacity."

Complementary answer:

Every evaluation criterion contains a series of sub-evaluation criteria that will be referred to during the evaluation process.

ICMPD aims to notify applicants of the award outcome by April 2025. This timeline is tentative and may be subject to change.

During implementation

Questions received:

- 1. How often must we submit a project report?
- 2. Is the grant a one-time payment?

Answer:

At least annual reporting is required unless specified otherwise in the contractual agreements. More information about reporting procedures can be found in <u>Annex II: General Conditions</u>, article 2 of the Standard Grant Contract. It is unlikely that the grant will be paid out in a single payment. More information on payment procedures can be found in <u>Annex II: General Conditions</u>, article 15 of the Standard Grant Contract. Information on reporting requirements can be found in <u>Annex II: General Conditions</u>.

3. Can the proposed projects evolve (change) during implementation, or do they have to be fixed from the outset?

Answer:

Changes during implementation may occur, depending on the situation at hand. Changes may require an amendment to the contract signed. More information can be found in <u>Annex II: General Conditions</u>, Article 9 of the Standard Grant Contract. Please note that the scope of the project cannot change throughout the implementation and such changes are not subject to amendment.

4. What specific role will EUDiF (ICMPD) play during the project's implementation? Will they provide technical assistance, capacity building, or other forms of support?

Answer from Call for applications guidelines page 2:

"ICMPD, as the Contracting Authority, is responsible for the administrative and financial supervision of the D4D Grants. ICMPD has the responsibility towards the EU for the correct use of grant funds, and is responsible for managing the call for applications, contracting and payment procedures."

Complementary answer:

Under this grant scheme ICMPD will undertake the role of Contracting Authority. For more details, please refer to in <u>Annex II: General Conditions</u>. The EUDiF project includes capacity development activities as part of its various components, separate from the grant scheme, these activities are distinct.

Infosession

Questions received:

- 1. Will the recording be shared to registered participants afterwards?
- 2. Can we have all the answers shared during the info session and its translation to French?
- 3. Will you share the slide deck you presented?
- 4. Could you share the link to the clarifications note?

Answer:

All questions and answers discussed during the information session on 29 November 2024 are included in this clarifications note 2. Clarification note 1 can be found here: D4D Grants: https://diasporafordevelopment.eu/library/d4d-grants-clarifications-note/.

The presentation can be found on the <u>EUDiF website</u>. The Guidelines for application remain the main reference point for this Call for applications.

Other

Question received:

- 1. If I have any questions after this call, could I email you?
- 2. Are there resources or support available to assist in the application process, particularly concerning budget planning and project design?

Answer from <u>Call for applications guidelines</u> section "Exchanges with prospective applicants" on page 11:

"Prospective applicants may submit questions via the <u>EUDiF website</u> before 6 December 2024. ICMPD has no obligation to respond to questions beyond this date. ICMPD will provide clarifications by 13 December 2024 at the latest"

Complementary answer:

All information necessary to complete and submit the application package are available in the Call for applications guidelines, application package annexes, and the Standard Grant Contract package. All these resources are available through the EUDiF website or through the <u>Guidelines of application</u>. Additionally, two clarifications notes were published on the EUDiF website to complement the information in the guidelines.

In the interest of equal and transparent treatment, EUDiF does not provide individual support for potential applicants to D4D Grants.

3. How do I know that my project idea will not be stolen?

Answer:

All evaluators and external assessors will sign a Declaration on Impartiality and Confidentiality prior to receiving any information related to evaluation. All data will be treated with confidentiality.

4. How many applications have you received in past years?

Answer:

D4D Grants is a pilot activity for EUDiF. Therefore, we do not have a list of previously awarded projects.

5. Once having participated in your D4D Grants programme, is it then forbidden to participate in other EUDiF programme activities or other organisations' programmes?

Answer:

Participation in other activities of EUDiF is not foreseen to be restricted for organisations participating in this activity. EUDiF cannot give an opinion if receiving financing from D4D Grants would impact access to other programmes.

6. There is an EU delegation in the country we want to implement the project. Do we have the right to contact them to present our project?

Answer:

Contacting an EU delegation in the country of origin is not a requirement for D4D Grants call.

7. Is it possible for my application to be filled out from Guinea?

Answer:

There is no limitation on where the application should be filled out from.

8. Will this grant be launched again in the future?

Answer:

For the next two years, EUDiF will focus on overseeing the implementation of the grants awarded under this call and does not foresee publishing a new opportunity for funding.

9. What are the copyright policies for publications or training materials developed during the project?

Answer from Annex II General Conditions of the Standard Grant Contract, Article 7 Ownership/Use of results and assets:

"Unless otherwise stipulated in the Special Conditions, ownership of, and title and intellectual and industrial property rights to, the Action's results, reports and other documents relating to it will be vested in the Beneficiary(ies)." i.e., in the lead applicant.