



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Co-Financing of Public Procurement of Innovation Consortia

GRO-SME-20-B-05

Call Identifier: COS-PPI-2020-2-04

Questions and Answers for the submission of proposals (FAQ's)

Version 1 – 27th November 2020

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PRELIMINARY REMARKS

This document provides replies to the most **frequently asked questions (FAQs)** concerning the call for proposals **“Co-financing of public procurement of innovation consortia”**. Its purpose is to provide clarifications about the call text to facilitate the submission of good quality proposals. The FAQs are based on the queries applicants have sent since the publication of the call.

This document is not legally binding and should be read in conjunction with the text of the call for proposals [COS-PPI-2020-2-04](#)¹, which is available on the “Funding and Tender Opportunities” portal.

To submit a proposal follow the instructions given in the call text. An additional reference document is the COSME work programme for 2020, i.e. the Commission Implementing Decision C(2020)7044 final of 19 October 2020 on the financing of the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (COSME) and the adoption of the work programme for 2020.

If you are **looking for partners**, you may want to contact the [Enterprise Europe Network](#) (EEN)² in your country and region. They can provide general information on the COSME programme and support in case **you are looking for partners** in other EU and COSME country/ies.

You may also want to use the [general partner search facility](#)³ offered by the “Funding and Tender Opportunities” portal.

Last but not least, **to ensure equal treatment to all applicants EASME does not provide individual telephone/electronic information and/or accept one-to-one meetings**. In addition, EASME does not assess or give feedback to concept notes/ideas or provide information on the eligibility of your activities. We are also not entitled to judge the eligibility of a project or of an institution. **At this stage, we can only provide clarifications on the call text**. Only the appointed decision-making body, i.e. the Evaluation Committee, will assess the proposals on the basis of the eligibility, exclusion, selection and award criteria set in the call text. Therefore, before applying, we invite you to read carefully the call text and ensure that you fulfil the criteria set in that document.

In case you still have further queries, please contact us via the functional mailbox for this action: EASME-COSME-PPI-2020@ec.europa.eu

GENERAL INFORMATION

The general information about the action can be found in sections 1 and 2 of the call text. These sections provide the policy context and explains call objective(s), theme(s) priorities and outputs.

The overall objective of this call for proposal is to contribute to the general objective of “strengthening the competitiveness and sustainability of the Union's enterprises, particularly SMEs” contained in EU Regulation (EU) 1287/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/ppi-01-2020;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=cos%20ppi;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=0,1,2;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programmePeriod=null;programCcm2Id=null;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;geographicalZonesCode=null;programmeDivisionProspect=null;startDateLte=null;startDateGte=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;cpvCode=null;performanceOfDelivery=null;sortQuery=sortStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState>

² <https://een.ec.europa.eu/>

³ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/partner-search>

December 2013 establishing a Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (COSME) (2014 - 2020) and repealing Decision No 1639/2006/EC (the COSME Regulation).

This call for proposals falls within the second COSME objective, as it intends to improve SMEs' access to markets inside the Union.

In particular, this call for proposals intends to contribute to a significant increase in the proportion of European SMEs that have access to the Public Procurement of Innovation (PPI) market inside the European Union.

QUESTIONS

OBJECTIVE(S) – THEME(S) – PRIORITIES – OUTPUTS

Ref. section 2 of the call text.

- 1. "The third objective is to link and establish synergies with research and innovation projects funded by the EU whenever possible. This may be relevant in particular with other projects funded by the Commission in relation to innovation procurement, for instance the two ongoing projects funded under the call for proposals under the 2018 COSME Work Programme namesake of the current call for proposals (COS-PPI-2018-2-01, ref. GRO-SME-18-B-07) and the so-called Innobroker projects financed under the COSME programme. For this objective, consortia are invited to take into consideration also other EU initiatives on PPI to avoid repeating the same activities and to maximise the impact of their projects."*

Does it mean that at least one of the partners should be part of a former consortium?

No.

- 2. Among the consortium, should there be a more experienced public buyer (in terms of PPI) and a less experienced?*

No.

TIMETABLE

No questions received.

BUDGET AVAILABLE AND FUNDING PROJECT

Ref. section 4 of the call text.

- 1. The call says "Eligible costs of public buyers must represent a minimum of 60% of the total eligible costs."*

- a) *Does this mean that no more than 40% of the total eligible costs can go into cost category C - Direct costs of the actual purchase of the innovative solution(s)? or,*
- b) *Does the statement concern the overall budget allocation between project partners, in the eventuality that the consortium includes partners that are not members of the public buyers group, so that the public buyers group members budget (including the purchase of the innovative solution(s) cost) must account for at least 60% of the total project budget?*

The second interpretation (b) is correct.

2. *Is there a specific budget allocation requested between the Eligible cost of category C and the eligible costs of categories A,B,D,E out of the total funding? (for example 30% to category C-70% to categories A,B,D,E).*

No, there is not a specific budget allocation.

ADMISSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

No questions received.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Ref. section 6 of the call text.

1. *In regard to the eligibility criteria it is advised that Profit-Making Entities could participate. Are there any limitations in regard to the size of the entity such as SMEs or Large Scale. Additionally, shall this entity be related to a public authority?
I wanted to clarify if an enterprise is eligible to submit a proposal along with two public authorities, in order to advance the innovation and research in a domain that they are all mutually interested.
In the case that is eligible, is it eligible that the Profit Making Company to apply as the coordinator?*

There are no limitation in size of the Profit-Making Entities and they can apply as coordinator. In particular, the provisions of the call related to participants who are not public buyers are defined in article 6.2: "Other organisations who are not public buyers and meet the eligibility criteria may join a consortium as the partners see fit." Concerning being related to a public authority, Profit making entities do not need to have a link with public buyers. In case of legal entities having a legal or capital link with applicants, the provisions of article 6.1 apply: "Linked third parties, i.e. legal entities having a legal or capital link with applicants, which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation, may take part in the action as applicants in order to declare eligible costs."

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

No questions received.

SELECTION CRITERIA

[Ref. section 8 of the call text.](#)

1. Will Selection criteria be assessed also at Stage 1?

Selection criteria will be assessed only at Stage 2 of the evaluation, therefore, the related supporting documents described in section 8.2 "Operational capacity" of the Call document (curriculum vitae, summary table indicating the persons that will make up the core team responsible for the project and the list of previous projects and activities performed) will be requested for the submission of the full proposal (stage2).

AWARD CRITERIA

No questions received.

LEGAL COMMITMENT

No questions received.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROCEDURES

No questions received.

FINANCIAL PROVISION

No questions received.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

No questions received.

PUBLICITY

No questions received.

DATA PROTECTION

No questions received.

PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

No questions received.

ANNEXES

[Ref. section 17 of the call text.](#)

1. Where are the following documents?

- a) Technical Annex 1 Part B - Outline template (stage 1)**
- b) Technical Annex 2 - Summary budget template (stage 1)**

- c) *COSME Guide for applicants***
- d) *EASME Model Grant Agreement (MGA)***

Those documents are on the [COS-PPI-2020-2-04](#) page on the “Funding and Tender Opportunities” portal under the section “Topic conditions and documents”.

Applicants can download those documents as soon as they start submitting their proposal. For doing so, they must go to the [COS-PPI-2020-2-04](#) page on the “Funding and Tender Opportunities” portal and click on “Start submission”.

2. *Where are the following documents?*

- a) *Technical Annex 1 Part B - Description of Action (DoA) template (stage 2)***
- b) *Technical Annex 2 - Detailed budget template (stage 2)***
- c) *List of previous related projects and activities template***

These documents will be available only at Stage 2.