



**Contracting Authority: Delegation of the European Union to the
Kyrgyz Republic**

**Non-State Actors (NSA)
in Development
(Action Programmes for 2011 and 2012)**

The Kyrgyz Republic

Guidelines
for grant applicants

Budget lines:

BGUE-B2011-21.030100-C1-DEVCO
BGUE-B2012-21.030100-C1-DEVCO

Reference: EuropeAid/133081/L/ACT/KG

Deadline for submission of concept notes: **27 July 2012**

NOTICE

This is a restricted Call for Proposals. In the first instance, only Concept Notes must be submitted for evaluation. Thereafter, applicants whose Concept Notes have been pre-selected will be invited to submit a Full Application Form. Further to the evaluation of the Full Applications, an eligibility check will be performed for those which are provisionally selected. This check will be undertaken on the basis of the supporting documents requested by the Contracting Authority and the signed "Declaration by the Applicant" sent together with the application.

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1. NON-STATE ACTORS IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

1.1 BACKGROUND

The European Commission (EU) has a long-standing relationship and cooperation with non-governmental and other civil society organisations as well as with local and decentralised authorities in the field of development. It is part of the European Union's (EU) commitment to fighting poverty and promoting the rule of law and adherence to fundamental freedoms set out in Article 177 (former Article 130u) of the European Community Treaty.

In 1976 budget-line 21-02-03 (ex-B7-6000 - Co-financing with NGOs) was set up to enable the European Commission (EC) to support actions proposed by European NGOs specialised in development co-operation, as part of its own development co-operation policy. These actions were intended to make a direct and lasting contribution to improving the living conditions and development prospects of the disadvantaged and marginalised in developing countries.

As of 1992 budget-line 21 02 13 (Decentralised Cooperation) was added as another privileged channel of cooperation with non-state actors and decentralised authorities.

In 2007 the new thematic programme “Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development” for the period 2007-2010 was introduced as the successor of the above budget-lines. In 2011 the Commission has adopted the Thematic Strategy Paper 2011-2013 "Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development"¹, which was drawn up to ensure a large degree of continuity with the previous programming period 2007-2010 and which establishes three priority objectives:

- 1) Support actions aimed at promoting an inclusive and empowered society in partner countries;
- 2) Support actions aimed at raising public awareness of development issues and promoting education for development in the EU and acceding countries, and;
- 3) Support actions aimed at achieving more efficient cooperation, fostering synergies and facilitating a structured dialogue between civil society networks and local authority associations from the EU and acceding countries.

Regulation (EC) n° 1905/2006² of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 378, 27 December 2006), establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation (DCI), and more specifically its article 14 constitute the legal basis for this new thematic programme.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME AND PRIORITY ISSUES

The **global objective** of this Programme is promotion of an inclusive and empowered society in partner countries so as to facilitate non-state actor participation in poverty reduction and sustainable development.

It is an “actor-oriented” programme aimed at strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations and local communities through support to their "own initiatives".

The specific objectives of this Call for proposal are:

- to support Non State Actors in their actions towards poverty reduction and promoting sustainable social and economic development in rural areas of Kyrgyzstan, based on initiatives of local communities,
- to reinforce their development capacities and facilitate their participation in poverty reduction

¹ Available at the following address: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/dci/non_state_actors_en.htm

² Available at the following address: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/worldwide/civil-society/index_en.htm. The Strategy Paper 2007 – 2010 for the programme “Non-State-Actors and Local Authorities in Development” as well as the Annual Action Programme for 2008 are available at the same address.

Under this Call for proposals priorities will be given to:

- Actions improving quality and standard of living of rural population, addressing their basic needs and access to social services;
- Actions increasing income generating opportunities through stimulation of local rural initiatives and activities.

The proposed action must address at least one of the above-mentioned priorities and have to include an element of capacity building for local NSA, especially, for rural community based organisations. Particular attention will be paid to actions providing innovative approaches or delivery methods in difficult/ out-of-reach environments.

1.3 FINANCIAL ALLOCATION PROVIDED BY THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

The overall indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals is EUR 900,000.00 (pooled allocations of years 2011 and 2012 budgets). The Contracting Authority reserves the right not to award all available funds.

Size of grants

Any grant requested under this Call for Proposals must fall between the following minimum and maximum amounts:

- minimum amount: EUR 150 000
- maximum amount: EUR 300 000

Any grant requested under this Call for Proposals must fall between the following minimum and maximum percentages of total eligible costs of the action:

- Minimum percentage: 50 % of the total estimated eligible costs of the action;
- Maximum percentage:
 - 75% of the total eligible costs of the action (see also Section 2.1.4), in case the applicant is from a Member State of the European Union;
 - 90% of the total eligible costs of the action (see also Section 2.1.4), in case the applicant is from the Kyrgyz Republic;

The balance (i.e. the difference between the total cost of the action and the amount requested from the Contracting Authority) must be financed from the applicant's or partners' own resources, or from sources other than the European Union budget or the European Development Fund³.

³ Where a grant is financed by the European Development Fund, any mention of European Union financing must be understood as referring to European Development Fund financing.

2. RULES FOR THIS CALL FOR PROPOSALS

These guidelines set out the rules for the submission, selection and implementation of actions financed under this Call, in conformity with the provisions of the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EU external actions, which is applicable to the present call (available on the Internet at this address: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/index_en.htm).

2.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

There are three sets of eligibility criteria, relating to:

- applicant(s) which may request a grant (2.1.1), and their partners (2.1.2);
- actions for which a grant may be awarded (2.1.3);
- types of cost which may be taken into account in setting the amount of the grant (2.1.4).

2.1.1 *Eligibility of applicants: who may apply?*

(1) In order to be eligible for a grant, applicants **must**:

- be non-governmental legal persons **and**
- be non profit making **and**
- be Non-State Actors (NSA) constituted and established⁴ in accordance with the legislation in force in the country concerned (Kyrgyz Republic) and must have been registered for at least two years at the time of the submission of an application; or, be Non-State Actors (NSA) constituted and established in any of the Member States of the European Union and must have been registered for at least three years at the time of the submission of an application.(International organisations are not eligible⁵); **and**
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with their partners, not acting as an intermediary. All actions should be based on an initiative of local partners and should ensure their involvement during all the stages of the action implementation. Non-State Actors originating from the **EU** which propose an action must demonstrate an established and effective **partnership with local organisations** in the Kyrgyz Republic where the actions are taking place; **and**
- be able to demonstrate to have regularly carried out activities in the field of development of the kind covered by this programme. NSA from a Member State of the European Union must have carried out such development activities at least during the last three years at the time of the submission of an application, for NSA from the Kyrgyz Republic this requirement is limited to the last two years.

(2) Potential applicants may not participate in calls for proposals or be awarded grants if they are in any of the situations which are listed in Section 2.3.3 of the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EU external actions (available from the following Internet address: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/index_en.htm);

In Part A, section 3 of the grant application form (“Declaration by the applicant”), applicants must declare that they do not fall into any of these situations.

⁴ To be determined on the basis of the organisation's statutes which should demonstrate that it has been established by an instrument governed by the national law of the country concerned. In this respect, any legal entity whose statutes have been established in another country cannot be considered an eligible local organisation, even if the statutes are registered locally or a “Memorandum of Understanding” has been concluded.

⁵ International organisations are international public-sector organisations set up by intergovernmental agreements as well as specialised agencies set up by them; the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, European Investment Bank (EIB) and European Investment Fund (EIF) are also recognized as international organisations.

2.1.2 Partnerships and eligibility of partners

Applicants must act with partner organisations.

Applications submitted by European Non-State Actors must demonstrate:

- i) an established and effective **partnership with local (national) organisations, established and registered** in the Kyrgyz Republic where the actions are taking place; **and**
- ii) that the proposed action is based on an initiative of local partners and ensure their involvement during all the stages of the implementation of the action.

Partners

Applicants' partners participate in designing and implementing the action, and the costs they incur are eligible in the same way as those incurred by the grant beneficiary. They must therefore satisfy the eligibility criteria as applicable on the grant beneficiary himself.

The following are not partners and do not have to sign the “partnership statement”:

- Associates

Other organisations may be involved in the action. Such associates play a real role in the action but may not receive funding from the grant with the exception of per diem or travel costs. Associates do not have to meet the eligibility criteria referred to in section 2.1.1. The associates have to be mentioned in Part B section 5 - “Associates of the Applicant participating in the Action” of the Grant Application Form.

- Contractors

The grant beneficiaries have the possibility to award contracts. Contractors are neither partners nor associates, and are subject to the procurement rules set out in Annex IV to the standard grant contract.

- Sub-grantees

The grant beneficiaries may award financial support (sub-grants) to third entities (the sub-grantees). Sub-grantees are neither partners nor associates nor contractors. Sub-grantees are subject to the nationality and origin rules set out in Annex IV to the standard grant contract.

The applicant will act as the lead organisation and, if selected, as the contracting party (the "Beneficiary").

2.1.3 Eligible actions: actions for which an application may be made

Definition:

An action (or project) is composed of a set of activities.

Duration

The planned duration of an action may not be lower than 24 months nor exceed 36 months.

Sectors or themes

Proposed projects have to be in line with the priorities identified in section 1.2

Location

Actions must take place in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Types of action

Actions within the priorities specified in section 1.2 may be financed under this call.

Types of activity

Projects should be self-contained operations indicating a coherent set of activities with clearly defined operational objectives, target groups and planned, tangible outcomes, within a limited timeframe. Actions should be designed to meet the specific needs of the target groups identified by the project, and should be in line with the priorities specified in section 1.2.

Sub-granting

In order to **support the achievement of the objectives of the action**, and in particular where the **implementation of the action proposed by the applicant requires financial support to be given to third**

parties, the applicant **may** propose awarding sub-grants. However, sub-granting may not be the main purpose of the action and it must be duly justified.

In case where the applicant foresees to award sub-grants, it has to specify in its application the total amount of the grant which may be used for awarding sub-grants as well as the minimum and maximum amount per sub-grant a list with the types of activity which may be eligible for sub-grants must be included in the application, together with the criteria for the selection of the beneficiaries of these sub-grants. The maximum amount of a sub-grant is limited to EUR 10.000 per third party while the total amount which can be awarded as sub-grants to third parties is limited to EUR 100.000.

Note that the applicant must comply with the objectives and priorities and guarantee the visibility of the EU-financing (see the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU external actions laid down and published by the European Commission at (see http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/visibility/index_en.htm).

The following types of action are ineligible:

- actions concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences, congresses;
- actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses;
- one-off events such as conferences, round tables, seminars etc. Conferences can only be funded if they form part of a wider range of activities to be implemented in the lifetime of the project. For these purposes, preparatory activities for a conference and the publication of the proceedings of a conference do not, in themselves, constitute such “wider activities”;
- academic research (unless as a limited part of a broader project);
- projects supporting individual political parties;
- actions including proselytising;
- actions in the formal education sector (apart from primary and vocational education);
- actions which consist exclusively or primarily in capital expenditure, e.g. purchase of land, buildings, offices, vehicles, except in special circumstances;
- actions which discriminate against individuals or groups of people on grounds of their gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or lack of them, or their ethnic origin;
- micro-financing and micro-crediting activities.

Number of applications and grants per applicant

An applicant may not submit more than ONE application under this Call for Proposals.

An applicant may not at the same time be partner in another application

Partners may take part in more than ONE application.

2.1.4 Eligibility of costs: costs which may be taken into consideration for the grant

Only "eligible costs" can be taken into account for a grant. The categories of costs considered as eligible and non-eligible are indicated below. The budget is both a cost estimate and a ceiling for "eligible costs". Note that the eligible costs must be based on real costs based on supporting documents (except for subsistence costs and indirect costs where flat-rate funding applies).

Recommendations to award a grant are always subject to the condition that the checking process which precedes the signing of the contract does not reveal problems requiring changes to the budget (for instance arithmetical errors, inaccuracies or unrealistic costs and other ineligible costs). The checks may give rise to requests for clarification and may lead the Contracting Authority to impose modifications or reductions to address such mistakes or inaccuracies. The amount of the grant and the percentage of the EU co-financing as a result of these corrections may not be increased.

It is therefore in the applicant's interest to provide a **realistic and cost-effective budget**.

Eligible direct costs

To be eligible under the Call for Proposals, costs must comply with the provisions of Article 14 of the General Conditions to the Standard Grant Contract (see Annex G of the Guidelines).

Note that taxes, including VAT will only be accepted as eligible costs when the Beneficiary (or, where applicable, its partners) can show it cannot reclaim them. Taxes shall in such case be included in the Budget of the Action under each heading. Information on taxes can be found in Annex J to these Guidelines.

Contingency reserve

A contingency reserve not exceeding 5% of the estimated direct eligible costs may be included in the Budget of the Action. It can only be used with the **prior written authorisation** of the Contracting Authority.

Eligible indirect costs (overheads)

The indirect costs incurred in carrying out the action may be eligible for flat-rate funding fixed at not more than 7% of the estimated total eligible direct costs. Indirect costs are eligible provided that they do not include costs assigned to another heading of the budget of the standard grant contract. The applicant may be asked to justify the requested percentage before contracting. However, once the flat-rate has been fixed in the special conditions of the standard grant contract, no supporting documents need to be provided.

If the applicant is in receipt of an operating grant financed from the EU, no indirect costs may be claimed within the proposed budget for the action.

Contributions in kind

Contributions in kind are not considered actual expenditure and are not eligible costs. The contributions in kind may not be treated as co-financing by the Beneficiary.

Notwithstanding the above, if the description of the action as proposed by the Beneficiary foresees the contributions in kind, such contributions have to be provided.

Ineligible costs

The following costs are not eligible:

- debts and debt service charges
- provisions for losses or potential future liabilities;
- interest owed;
- costs declared by the beneficiary and covered by another action or work programme;
- purchases of land or buildings, except where necessary for the direct implementation of the action, in which case ownership must be transferred to the final beneficiaries and/or local partners, at the latest by the end of the action;
- currency exchange losses;
- any type of credits to third parties.

2.2 HOW TO APPLY AND THE PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW

Prior registration in PADOR for this Call for Proposals is obligatory.

Phase 1, The concept note: Registration in PADOR is obligatory for the applicants. Registration is optional but recommended for their partners;

Phase 2, The full proposal: Registration in PADOR is obligatory for all pre-selected applicants and all their partners.

PADOR is an on-line database in which organisations register themselves and update regularly their data, through the Europeaid website: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/onlineservices/pador/index_en.htm

Before starting the registration of your organisation in PADOR, please read the "Quick guide" available on the website. It explains the registration process.

You have to indicate on the paper version of the proposal the EuropeAid ID (EID). To get this identification, your organisation must register, save and "sign" (committing your responsibility) in PADOR obligatory data (on each screen the fields written in orange) and the related documents (see section 2.4).

Notwithstanding the above, if the organisation is in a situation where it is impossible to register in PADOR, it shall submit a justification proving that such impossibility is of a general nature and goes beyond the control of the applicant and or its partner(s). In this case, the applicant and/or the partners concerned shall complete the "PADOR off-line form"⁶ in annex of these Guidelines and send it by the submission deadline along with the application to the address indicated in sections 2.2.2 and 2.2.6. Subsequently, the registration in PADOR will be initiated by the European Commission. If, at a later stage, the organisation wishes to update itself its data, an access request will have to be sent to the PADOR helpdesk.

All questions related to the registration in PADOR should be addressed to the PADOR helpdesk at:

Europeaid-pador@ec.europa.eu

2.2.1 *Concept Note content*

Applications must be submitted in accordance with the instructions on the Concept Note included in the Grant Application Form annexed to these Guidelines (Annex A).

Applicants must apply in English.

In the Concept note, the applicants must only provide an estimate of the amount of contribution requested from the Contracting Authority. Only the applicants invited to submit a full application in the second phase will be required to present a detailed budget. The elements assessed on the basis of the concept note may not be modified by the applicant in the full application form. The EU contribution may not vary from the initial estimate by more than 20%. The applicant is free to adapt the percentage of co-financing required within the minimum and maximum amount and percentages of co-financing, as laid down in the present Guidelines under section 1.3.

Any error or major discrepancy related to the points listed in the instructions on the Concept Note may lead to the rejection of the Concept Note.

Clarifications will only be requested when information provided is unclear, thus preventing 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 contain ALL relevant information concerning the action. No additional annexes should be sent.

2.2.2 *Where and how to send concept notes*

The Concept note together with the Checklist for the Concept Note (Part A section 2 of the grant application form) and the Declaration by the applicant for the Concept Note (Part A section 3 of the grant application form) must be submitted in one original and 3 (in view of environmental considerations, as few copies as possible should be requested) copies in A4 size, each bound.

Concept Notes must be submitted as well in electronic format (CD-Rom). The electronic format must contain **exactly the same** application as the paper version enclosed.

The outer envelope must bear the **reference number and the title of the call for proposals**, together with the full name and address of the applicant, and the words "Not to be opened before the opening session" and "Не открывать до начала работы оценочного комитета".

Concept Notes must be submitted in a sealed envelope by registered mail, private courier service or by hand-delivery (a signed and dated certificate of receipt will be given to the deliverer) at the address below:

⁶ Which corresponds to Sections 3 and 4 of Part B of the application form.

Postal address/Address for hand delivery or by private courier service:
Delegation of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic
Finance and Contract section
Business Center Orion
Boulevard Erkindik 21 (5th floor)
720040 Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

Concept Notes sent by any other means (e.g. by fax or by e-mail) or delivered to other addresses will be rejected.

Applicants must verify that their Concept Note is complete using the Checklist for Concept Note (Part A section 2 of the grant application form). Incomplete concept notes may be rejected.

2.2.3 *Deadline for submission of the Concept Notes*

The deadline for the submission of Concept Note is **27 July 2012** as evidenced by the date of dispatch, the postmark or the date of the deposit slip. In the case of hand-deliveries, the deadline for receipt is at **17:30 Bishkek time** as evidenced by the signed and dated receipt. Any Concept Note submitted after the deadline will automatically be rejected.

However, for reasons of administrative efficiency, the Contracting Authority may reject any Concept Note received after the effective date of approval of the Concept note evaluation (see indicative calendar under section 2.5.2)

2.2.4 *Further information for Concept Note*

Two information sessions on this Call for Proposals will be indicatively held in the end of **June 2012 in Bishkek and in Osh**. More detailed information on time of information sessions will be published at latest on 29 June 2012 on the website of the Delegation of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic or in mass media. Questions may be sent by e-mail no later than 21 days before the deadline for the submission of concept notes to the below address, indicating clearly the reference of the Call for Proposals:

E-mail address: delegation-kyrgyzstan-fcs@eeas.europa.eu

The Contracting Authority has no obligation to provide further clarifications to questions addressed after this date.

Replies will be given no later than 11 days before the deadline for the submission of concept notes.

In the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the Contracting Authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, a partner, an action or specific activities.

Questions that may be relevant to other applicants, together with the answers as well as other important notices to applicants during the course of the evaluation procedure, may be published on the internet at the EuropeAid web site <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome> or/and http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kyrgyzstan/index_en.htm, , as the need arises. It is therefore highly recommended to regularly consult the abovementioned website in order to be informed of the questions and answers published.

All questions related to PADOR registration should be addressed to the PADOR help desk:

Europeaid-pador@ec.europa.eu

2.2.5 *Full Application form*

Applicants invited to submit a full application form following the pre-selection of the Concept Note must do so by using the Part B of the application form annexed to these Guidelines (Annex A). Applicants should keep strictly to the format of the application form and fill in the paragraphs and the pages in order.

The elements assessed on the basis of the concept note cannot be modified by the applicant in the full application form. The EU contribution may not vary from the initial estimate by more than 20%, while the applicant is free to adapt the percentage of co-financing required within the minimum and maximum amount and percentages of co-financing, as laid down in these Guidelines under section 1.3.

Applicants must submit their applications in the same language as their concept note.

Please complete the full application form carefully and as clearly as possible so that it can be assessed properly.

Any error related to the points listed in the Checklist (Part B, Section 6 of the Grant Application form) or any major inconsistency in the full application form (e.g. the amounts mentioned in the budget worksheets are inconsistent) may lead to the rejection of the application.

Clarifications will only be requested when information provided is unclear, thus preventing 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 (budget, logical framework) will be transmitted to the evaluators and assessors. It is therefore of utmost importance that these documents contain ALL relevant information concerning the action. **No supplementary annexes should be sent.**

2.2.6 *Where and how to send the Full Application form*

Applications must be submitted in a sealed envelope by registered mail, private courier service or by hand-delivery (a signed and dated certificate of receipt will be given to the deliverer) at the address below:

Postal address/Address for hand delivery or by private courier service:

Delegation of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic
Finance and Contract section
Business Center Orion
Boulevard Erkindik 21 (5th floor)
720040 Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

Applications sent by any other means (e.g. by fax or by e-mail) or delivered to other addresses will be rejected.

Applications must be submitted in one original and 3 copies in A4 size, each bound. The full application form, budget and logical framework must also be supplied in electronic format (CD-Rom) in a separate and unique file (e.g. the full application form must not be split into several different files). The electronic format must contain **exactly the same** application as the paper version.

The Checklist (Section 6 of Part B of the grant application form) and the Declaration by the applicant (Section 7 of Part B of the grant application form) must be stapled separately and enclosed in the envelope

The outer envelope must bear the **reference number and the title of the Call for Proposals**, together with the number and title of the lot the full name and address of the applicant, and the words "Not to be opened before the opening session" and " Не открывать до начала работы оценочного комитета ".

Applicants must verify that their application is complete using the checklist (Section 6 of Part B of the grant application form). Incomplete applications may be rejected.

2.2.7 *Deadline for submission of the Full Application form*

The deadline for the submission of applications will be indicated in the letter sent to the applicants whose application has been preselected.

However, for reasons of administrative efficiency, the Contracting Authority may reject any application received after the effective date of approval of evaluation report for full applications (see indicative calendar under Section 2.5.2)

2.2.8 *Further information for the Full Application form*

Questions may be sent by e-mail no later than 21 days before the deadline for the submission of applications to the addresses listed below, indicating clearly the reference of the Call for Proposals:

E-mail address: delegation-kyrgyzstan-fcs@eeas.europa.eu

Contracting Authority has no obligation to provide further clarifications to questions addressed after this date.

Replies will be given no later than 11 days before the deadline for the submission of applications.

In the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the Contracting Authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, a partner or an action.

Questions that may be relevant to other applicants, together with the answers, will be published on the internet at website <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome> or/and http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kyrgyzstan/index_en.htm . It is therefore highly recommended to regularly consult the abovementioned website in order to be informed of the questions and answers published.

All questions related to PADOR registration should be addressed to the PADOR helpdesk:

Europeaid-pador@ec.europa.eu

2.3 EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications will be examined and evaluated by the Contracting Authority with the possible assistance of external assessors. All actions submitted by applicants will be assessed according to the following steps and criteria.

If the examination of the application reveals that the proposed action does not meet the eligibility criteria stated in paragraph 2.1.3, the application shall be rejected on this sole basis.

(1) STEP 1: OPENING & ADMINISTRATIVE CHECKS AND CONCEPT NOTE EVALUATION

The following will be assessed:

- The submission deadline has been respected. If the deadline has not been respected the application will automatically be rejected.
- The Concept Note satisfies all the criteria specified in points 1-5 of the Checklist (Section 2 of Part A of the grant application form). If any of the requested information is missing or is incorrect, the application may be rejected on that sole basis and the application will not be evaluated further.

The evaluation of the Concept Notes that have passed the first administrative check will cover the relevance and design of the action.

The Concept Note will be given an overall score out of 50 points in accordance with the breakdown provided in the Evaluation Grid below. The evaluation shall also verify the compliance with instructions provided in the guidance for Concept Note.

The evaluation criteria are divided into headings and subheadings. Each subheading will be given a score between 1 and 5 in accordance with the following assessment categories: 1 = very poor; 2 = poor; 3 = adequate; 4 = good; 5 = very good.

Scores

1. Relevance of the action	Sub-score	30
1.1 How relevant is the proposal to the objectives and priorities of the Call for Proposals?*	5x2**	
1.2 How relevant to the particular needs and constraints of the target country(ies) or region(s) is the proposal? (including synergy with other EU initiatives and avoidance of duplication)	5x2*	
1.3 How clearly defined and strategically chosen are those involved (final beneficiaries, target groups)? Have their needs been clearly defined and does the proposal address them appropriately?	5	
1.4 Does the proposal contain specific added-value elements, such as environmental issues, promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities, needs of disabled people, rights of minorities and rights of indigenous peoples, or innovation and best practices?	5	
2. Design of the action	Sub-score	20
2.1 How coherent is the overall design of the action? In particular, does it reflect the analysis of the problems involved, take into account external factors and relevant stakeholders?	5x2**	
2.2 Is the action feasible and consistent in relation to the objectives and expected results?	5x2**	

TOTAL SCORE 50

* Note: A score of 5 (very good) will only be allocated if the proposal specifically addresses more than the required minimum number of priorities as indicated in Section 1.2 (Objectives of the programme) of these guidelines.

** the scores are multiplied by 2 because of their importance

Once all Concept Notes have been assessed, a list will be established with the proposed actions ranked according to their total score.

First, only the Concept Notes which have been given a score of a minimum of 30 points will be considered for pre-selection.

Secondly, the list of Concept Notes will be reduced in accordance to the ranking to those whose sum of requested contributions amounts to EUR 1,800,000.00.

Following the Concept Note evaluation, the Contracting Authority will send a letter to all applicants, indicating whether their application was submitted prior to the deadline, informing them of the reference number they have been allocated and whether the Concept Note were evaluated and the results of that evaluation. The preselected applicants will subsequently be invited to submit full applications.

(2) STEP 2: EVALUATION OF THE FULL APPLICATION

First, the following will be assessed:

- The submission deadline has been respected. If the deadline has not been respected the application will automatically be rejected.
- The full application form satisfies all the criteria specified in points 1-8 of the Checklist (Section 6 of Part B of the grant application form). If any of the requested information is missing or is incorrect, the application may be rejected on that **sole** basis and the application will not be evaluated further.

An evaluation of the quality of the applications, including the proposed budget, and of the capacity of the applicant and its partners, will be subsequently carried out in accordance with the evaluation criteria set out in the Evaluation Grid included below. There are two types of evaluation criteria: selection and award criteria.

The selection criteria are intended to help evaluate the applicants' financial and operational capacity to ensure that they:

- have stable and sufficient sources of finance to maintain their activity throughout the period during which the action is being carried out and, where appropriate, to participate in its funding;
- have the management capacity, professional competencies and qualifications required to successfully complete the proposed action. This also applies to any partners of the applicant.

The award criteria allow the quality of the applications submitted to be evaluated in relation to the set objectives and priorities, and grants to be awarded to actions which maximise the overall effectiveness of the Call for Proposals. They enable the selection of applications which the Contracting Authority can be confident will comply with its objectives and priorities. They cover such aspects as the relevance of the action, its consistency with the objectives of the Call for Proposals, quality, expected impact, sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

Scoring:

The evaluation criteria are divided into sections and subsections. Each subsection will be given a score between 1 and 5 in accordance with the following guidelines: 1 = very poor; 2 = poor; 3 = adequate; 4 = good; 5 = very good.

Evaluation Grid

Section	Maximum Score
1. Financial and operational capacity	20
1.1 Do the applicant and, if applicable, partners have sufficient experience of project management?	5
1.2 Do the applicant and, if applicable partners have sufficient technical expertise? (notably knowledge of the issues to be addressed.)	5
1.3 Do the applicant and, if applicable, partners have sufficient management capacity? (including staff, equipment and ability to handle the budget for the action)?	5
1.4 Does the applicant have stable and sufficient sources of finance?	5
2. Relevance of the action	30
<i>Score transferred from the Concept Note evaluation</i>	
3. Effectiveness and feasibility of the action	20
3.1 Are the activities proposed appropriate, practical, and consistent with the objectives and expected results?	5
3.2 Is the action plan clear and feasible?	5
3.3 Does the proposal contain objectively verifiable indicators for the outcome of the action? Is evaluation foreseen?	5
3.4 Is the partners' level of involvement and participation in the action satisfactory?	5
4. Sustainability of the action	15
4.1 Is the action likely to have a tangible impact on its target groups?	5
4.2 Is the proposal likely to have multiplier effects? (Including scope for replication and extension of the outcome of the action and dissemination of information.)	5
4.3 Are the expected results of the proposed action sustainable:	5

- financially (<i>how will the activities be financed after the funding ends?</i>) - institutionally (<i>will structures allowing the activities to continue be in place at the end of the action? Will there be local “ownership” of the results of the action?</i>) - at policy level (where applicable) (<i>what will be the structural impact of the action — e.g. will it lead to improved legislation, codes of conduct, methods, etc?</i>) - environmentally (if applicable) (<i>will the action have a negative/positive environmental impact?</i>)	
5. Budget and cost-effectiveness of the action	15
5.1 Are the activities appropriately reflected in the budget?	5x2*
5.2 Is the ratio between the estimated costs and the expected results satisfactory?	5
Maximum total score	100

*the scores are multiplied by 2 because of their importance

Note on Section 1. Financial and operational capacity

If the score is less than 12 points for section 1, the application will be rejected.

Provisional selection

Following the evaluation, a table listing the applications ranked according to their score and within the available financial envelope will be established as well as a reserve list following the same criteria.

(3) STEP 3: VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT AND PARTNERS

The eligibility verification, based on the supporting documents requested by the Contracting Authority (see Section 2.4) will only be performed for the applications that have been provisionally selected according to their score and within the available financial envelope.

- The Declaration by the applicant (Section 7 of Part B the grant application form) will be cross-checked with the supporting documents provided by the applicant. Any missing supporting document or any incoherence between the Declaration by the applicant and the supporting documents may lead to the rejection of the application on that sole basis.
- The eligibility of the applicant, the partners, and the action will be verified according to the criteria set out in Sections 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3.

Following the above analysis and if necessary, any rejected application will be replaced by the next best placed application in the reserve list that falls within the available financial envelope, which will then be examined for the eligibility of its applicant and the partners.

2.4 SUBMISSION OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR PROVISIONALLY SELECTED APPLICATIONS

Applicants who have been provisionally selected or listed under the reserve list will be informed in writing by the Contracting Authority. They will be requested to supply the following documents in order to allow the Contracting Authority to verify the eligibility of the applicants and their partners:⁷

Supporting documents must be provided through PADOR, see Section 2.2

1. The statutes or articles of association of the applicant organisation⁸ and of each partner organisation. Where the Contracting Authority has recognized the applicant's eligibility for another call for proposals under the same budget line within 2 years before the deadline for receipt of applications, the applicant may submit, instead of its statutes, copy of the document proving the eligibility of the applicant in a

⁷ No supporting document will be requested for applications for a grant not exceeding EUR 25 000.

⁸ Where the applicant and/or (a) partner(s) is a public body created by a law, a copy of the said law must be provided

former Call (e.g.: copy of the special conditions of a grant contract received during the reference period), unless a change in its legal status has occurred in the meantime.⁹

2. Copy of the applicant's latest accounts (the profit and loss account and the balance sheet for the previous financial year for which the accounts have been closed)¹⁰.
3. Legal entity sheet (see annex D of these Guidelines) duly completed and signed by the applicant, accompanied by the justifying documents which are requested therein. If the applicant has already signed a contract with the Contracting Authority, instead of the legal entity sheet and its supporting documents the legal entity number may be provided, unless a change in its legal status occurred in the meantime.
5. A financial identification form conforming to the model attached at Annex E of these Guidelines, certified by the bank to which the payments will be made. This bank must be located in the country where the applicant is registered. If the applicant has already signed a contract with the European Commission or where the European Commission has been in charge of the payments of a contract, a copy of the previous financial identification form may be provided instead, unless a change in its bank account occurred in the meantime.

Where the requested supporting documents are not uploaded in PADOR they must be supplied in the form of originals, photocopies or scanned versions (i.e. showing legible stamps, signatures and dates) of the said originals. However, the Legal entity sheet and the financial identification form must always be submitted in original.

Where such documents are not in one of the official languages of the European Union or in Kyrgyz or in Russian, a translation into the English of the relevant parts of these documents, proving the applicant's eligibility, must be attached and will prevail for the purpose of analysing the application.

Where these documents are in an official language of the European Union other than the English, it is **strongly** recommended, in order to facilitate the evaluation, to provide a translation of the relevant parts of the documents, proving the applicant's eligibility, into the English.

If the abovementioned supporting documents are not provided before the deadline indicated in the request for supporting documents sent to the applicant by the Contracting Authority, the application may be rejected.

Based on the verification of the supporting documents by the Evaluation Committee it will make a final recommendation to the Contracting Authority which will decide on the award of grants.

2.5 NOTIFICATION OF THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY'S DECISION

2.5.1 Content of the decision

Applicants will be informed in writing of the Contracting Authority's decision concerning their application and, in case of rejections, the reasons for the negative decision.

Applicants believing that they have been harmed by an error or irregularity during the award process may file a complaint. See further Section 2.4.15 of the Practical Guide.

⁹ To be inserted only where the eligibility conditions have not changed from one call for proposals to the other.

¹⁰ This obligation does not apply to natural persons who have received a scholarship, nor to public bodies nor to international organisations. It does not apply either when the accounts are in practice the same documents as the external audit report already provided pursuant to Section 2.4.2.

2.5.2 Indicative time table

	DATE	TIME*
Information meeting (if any)	End of June 2012 in Bishkek and in Osh	See 2.2.4
Deadline for request for any clarifications from the Contracting Authority	06 July 2012	17:00
Last date on which clarifications are issued by the Contracting Authority	16 July 2012	17:00
Deadline for submission of Concept Notes	27 July 2012	17:00
Information to applicants on the opening & administrative checks and concept note evaluation (step 1)	July 2012*	-
Invitations for submission of Full Application Form	August 2012 *	-
Deadline for submission of Full Application Form	September 2012*	-
Information to applicants on the evaluation of the Full Application Form (step 2)	September 2012*	-
Notification of award (after the eligibility check) (step 3)	October 2012*	-
Contract signature	November 2012*	-

***Provisional date.** All times are in the time zone of the country of the Contracting Authority

This indicative timetable may be updated by the Contracting Authority during the procedure. In such case, the updated timetable shall be published on internet at the EuropeAid web site <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome> or/and http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kyrgyzstan/index_en.htm.

2.6 CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION FOLLOWING THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY'S DECISION TO AWARD A GRANT

Following the decision to award a grant, the Beneficiary will be offered a contract based on the Contracting Authority's standard grant contract (see Annex G of these Guidelines). By signing the Application form (Annex A of these Guidelines), the applicant declares accepting, in case where it is awarded a grant, the Contractual conditions as laid down in the standard grant contract.

Implementation contracts

Where implementation of the action requires the Beneficiary to award procurement contracts, it must award the contract to the tenderer offering the best value for money, that is to say, the best price-quality ratio, in compliance with the principles of transparency and equal treatment for potential contractors, care being taken to avoid any conflict of interests. To this end, the Beneficiary must follow the procedures set out in Annex IV to the standard grant contract.

2.7 EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AND CENTRAL EXCLUSION DATABASE

The applicants and, if they are legal entities, persons who have powers of representation, decision-making or control over them, are informed that, should they be in one of the situations mentioned in:

- the Commission Decision of 16.12.2008 on the Early Warning System (EWS) for the use of authorising officers of the Commission and the executive agencies (OJ, L 344, 20.12.2008, p.125) or

-the Commission Regulation of 17.12.2008 on the Central Exclusion Database (CED) (OJ L344, 20.12.2008, p.12),

their personal details (name, given name if natural person, address, legal form and name and given name of the persons with powers of representation, decision-making or control, if legal person) may be registered in the EWS only or both in the EWS and CED, and communicated to the persons and entities listed in the above-mentioned Decision and Regulation, in relation to the award or the execution of a grant agreement or decision.

3. LIST OF ANNEXES

DOCUMENTS TO BE COMPLETED

ANNEX A: GRANT APPLICATION FORM (WORD FORMAT)

ANNEX B: BUDGET (EXCEL FORMAT)

ANNEX C: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK (EXCEL FORMAT)

ANNEX D: LEGAL ENTITY SHEET

ANNEX E: FINANCIAL IDENTIFICATION FORM

ANNEX F: PADOR OFF-LINE FORM

DOCUMENTS FOR INFORMATION

ANNEX G: STANDARD GRANT CONTRACT

- ANNEX II: GENERAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO EUROPEAN UNION-FINANCED GRANT CONTRACTS FOR EXTERNAL ACTIONS
- ANNEX IV: CONTRACT AWARD PROCEDURES
- ANNEX V: STANDARD REQUEST FOR PAYMENT
- ANNEX VI: MODEL NARRATIVE AND FINANCIAL REPORT
- ANNEX VII: MODEL REPORT OF FACTUAL FINDINGS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN EXPENDITURE VERIFICATION OF AN EU FINANCED GRANT CONTRACT FOR EXTERNAL ACTIONS
- ANNEX VIII: MODEL FINANCIAL GUARANTEE
- ANNEX IX: STANDARD TEMPLATE FOR TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF ASSETS

ANNEX H: DAILY ALLOWANCE RATES (PER DIEM), available at the following address:
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/index_en.htm

ANNEX J: INFORMATION ON THE TAX REGIME APPLICABLE TO GRANT CONTRACTS SIGNED UNDER THE CALL.

PROJECT CYCLE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/multimedia/publications/publications/manuals-tools/t101_en.htm