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CENTRAL PROJECT
MANAGEMENT
AGENCY

**Support for advanced learning and training (SALT III) programme
Education Service Providers Project Grants**

Questions and Answers (Q&A)

1. Application preparation questions

1.	<p>Q. Is it possible to involve in cooperation partners who are in commercial sector "de jure", for example individual entrepreneur (who is Belarusian, registered at EU)?</p> <p>A. According to the Guidelines section 2.1.1 the Lead applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be a legal entity and• be non-profit-making. <p>In this case, you may include individuals as team members and/or experts, but not as partners.</p>
2.	<p>Q. What are the options of involving Belarusians from Belarus to the project, both as experts and beneficiaries? I.e. could we invite experts and participants from Belarus for a training taking place in Poland?</p> <p>A. Yes, if it does not pose any risk to individuals residing in Belarus.</p>
3.	<p>Q. Where can I find guidelines and other documents?</p> <p>A. The information about the call including the guidelines, application form and its annexes: https://cpva.lt/en/calls-for-proposals/salt-iii-grant-scheme-to-education-service-providers https://eu4belarus.info/home-en/</p> <p>The application form: https://centralprojectmanagementagencyyouthaccount.submittable.com/submit</p>
4.	<p>Q. I would like to organize photography courses for those interested. There is a local NGO that is willing to cooperate with me in terms of submitting and implementing such a project. Although the organization primarily focuses on comprehensive support for Belarusians and has not previously run large or permanent educational programs, it has provided assistance to Belarusians in accessing education and has organized one-time educational meetings.</p>

	<p>A. The organisation that you described may apply, if it meets the eligibility requirements, however, you should consider whether it is strong enough to apply independently or whether it would be more appropriate to look for another partner and apply as a co-applicant. Please assess this carefully, taking into account your professional experience and the possibility of cooperating with another organisation.</p>
5.	<p>Q. Section 2.1.1 mentions that applicants should have experience in the field of education. If the Lead Applicant's primary expertise is not in education, can this be fully compensated by the proven educational expertise of a Co-applicant or by the specific professional background of the key experts (Belarusian educators) included in the project team?</p> <p>A. Yes, it can be supported by experts or by co-applicants. However, the lead applicant's organization should be operating or having proven experience in the field of education and/or support of Belarusians. The organization must meet at least one of these requirements. Experience in the field education for Belarusians is an advantage. The co-applicant cannot fully compensate the operational experience by may strengthen the capacity of the partnership. The operational capacity of the applicants will be evaluated by the evaluators.</p>
6.	<p>Q. Could legal entity (LLC) from Belarus active in adult education be associate or contractor in the project?</p> <p>A. More detail information is needed to answer the question. Note, that according to the guidelines the specific objective of this call for proposals is to strengthen the capacities of independent non state Belarusian education service providers.</p>
7.	<p>Q. If the entire project team is Belarusians, do we need to attach the passports and CVs of the entire team involved in project?</p> <p>A. No, the guidelines do not require that the entire project team be Belarusian, but they do require that the core project team include at least one current or former Belarusian citizen with proven professional experience in education in Belarus and in exile. To prove Belarusian citizenship, a copy of passport will be required with the application.</p> <p><i>Note, that if two or more applications get the same score and are at the bottom and below of the available budget for this call for proposals a decision to apply additional priority criteria may be taken, where Criterion 2 is “having a bigger number of Belarusians engaged into the project team”.</i></p>
8.	<p>Q. I would like to ask whether the Belarusian Studies Department at the University of Warsaw (Poland), which includes Belarusian citizens among its staff, and functions as a public non-profit organization engaged in education for Belarusians, would be eligible to participate in this program https://cpva.lt/en/calls-for-proposals/salt-iii-grant-scheme-to-education-service-providers.</p> <p>I would like to clarify whether the program is open only to Belarusian NGOs, or if organizations/universities from other countries can also apply.</p> <p>A. No, the programme is not open only to the Belarusian NGOs. According to the guidelines section 2.1.1 the organisations have to be effectively established in the EU, be non-profit and</p>

	be a type such as non-governmental organisation, civil society organisation, public organisation, operating or having proven experience in the field of education and/or support of Belarusians. The university is eligible to apply, if its legal status is a <i>public non-profit organisation</i> .
9.	<p>Q1. What does 'effectively established' mean for your evaluation? Will an organization registered 6 weeks before the deadline be considered eligible? What evidence of 'proven experience' is required?</p> <p>Q2. Can a NGO, non-operating for 2 years, have a positive assessment to win a grant?</p> <p>A. In most calls, “effectively established” goes beyond just being legally registered. Evaluators usually look for signs that the organization is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational (not just on paper). • Able to carry out activities tied to the call. • Financially and administratively functional. <p>A 6-week-old organization <i>can</i> be technically eligible as the guidelines for applicants do not explicitly set a minimum year of operation of the applicant. However, evaluators may still judge it as not “effectively established” if there’s no evidence of real activity or capacity yet.</p> <p>The guidelines for applicants do not <i>explicitly require</i> recent activity, e.g., more than 2 years, so a positive assessment will not depend on the years of operation of the lead applicant.</p> <p>Typical acceptable evidence includes completed or ongoing projects related to the call topic. The table of the lead applicants and co-applicants experience are available at the https://cpva.lt/en/documents?_sfm_programa=22663&_sfm_kvietimas=41530 .</p>
10.	<p>Q. Clarify the project audience.</p> <p>A. The final beneficiaries are the Belarusians in Belarus and in exile seeking to strengthen employability, active citizenship, and lifelong learning opportunities. In projects, the target group have to be defined in more detail way based on the needs of the project.</p>
11.	<p>Q. Do you prefer projects aimed at a broad audience, as opposed to projects focused on professional groups?</p> <p>A. The guidelines do not define target group preferences; therefore, applicants are free to choose the target group – a broad audience or specialists – considering the situation and the analysis of project needs. The best projects that are clear about who they’re for.</p>
12.	<p>Q. Are both project outputs and project activities/events required to be exclusively in Belarusian?</p> <p>A. The project results must be prepared in Belarusian and/or English. Other languages, including project activities and events, may only be used as supporting languages.</p>
13.	<p>Q. Apart from strictly educational activities, we are also seeking support for education-related initiatives that form an integral part of our overall educational mission:</p> <p>1) programmes supporting the defence of doctoral dissertations;</p> <p>2) expert round tables;</p>

	<p>3) the Vasil Bykaŭ Annual Award for outstanding contributions to Belarusian education and research.</p> <p>Could any of these activities be eligible for support (of course they would be just components of a broader project that is entirely educational in nature)?</p> <p>A. The first two activities may be eligible for funding if their need is clearly justified in the project proposal, e.g. doctoral dissertation support programmes may be developed as an educational product; expert roundtable discussions may be included in networking activities. The third activity is not eligible for funding in itself unless it is part of a networking activity.</p>
14.	<p>Q. Regarding Section 2.1.1: We seek confirmation that a Belarusian NGO in exile, officially registered as a legal entity in Poland, fully satisfies the "effective establishment in the EU" requirement.</p> <p>A. Effective establishment in the EU allows businesses to operate legally in any Member State, including Poland, with a stable, continuous presence, enjoying equal rights as local companies. It requires a real, physical economic presence (offices, staff) rather than just a mailbox. Key factors include central administration, decision-making power for operations, and tax/labour law compliance.</p>
15.	<p>Q. I would like to clarify the possibility of the organization's participation. There have been no direct educational initiatives, such as separate courses or accreditation with the Ministry of Education that would allow issuing educational diplomas. However, educational meetings are held, and support is organized to help Belarusians obtain education in Poland.</p> <p>A. Organizing educational meetings and supporting Belarusian citizens in accessing education in Poland qualifies as relevant experience in education and training, particularly within contexts like the Education for Belarusians (SALT) programme. Explain in more detail what type of the activities your organisation held to prove its experience on the topic of the call, e.g., such work may involve coordinating academic or vocational opportunities, providing, or assisting with, training, and helping students and adults navigate legal or logistical challenges, all of which fall under pedagogical or educational support roles, etc.</p>
16.	<p>Q. I would like to ask whether the development of a methodology for psychological education for schools (aimed at working with children, parents, and teachers) would fall within this scope? I have previous experience working as a psychologist in educational sector in Belarus, and I see a strong need to reform this field. I also believe it is especially important to support this area during and after the ongoing polyresins as well. Thank you in advance for your time and clarification.</p> <p>A. The guidelines for applicants provide a list of the <i>Recommended themes</i> to guide the project activities and outputs. The key themes include Employability and Professional competencies; Active citizenship; Teaching competencies; Literacy and Functional Competencies; Institutional and Educational capacities of NGOs operating in the education and training sector. Each topic provides a more detailed list of subtopics; however, these sub-lists are not exhaustive. Based on the information provided in your question, the topic of teaching competencies may be relevant to your project idea.</p>

2. Budget preparation questions

1.	<p>Q. Regarding the financial capacity assessment: If the Lead Applicant is a legally registered NGO in the EU but has had minimal financial activity or 'dormant' status in recent years, can the financial stability and operational capacity be demonstrated through the track record and financial turnover of a Co-applicant?</p> <p>A. Financial capacity of Lead Applicant is essential to evaluate in order to ensure that Lead Applicant have stable and sufficient sources of finance to maintain their activity throughout the proposed action and, where appropriate, to participate in its funding. It is highly recommended to select a Lead Applicant that is financially capable, as the guidelines for applicants do not provision financial capacity check-up for co-applicants (reference to the section 2.3.2. of guidelines for applicants)</p>
2.	<p>Q1. Regarding Section 1.3: Could you clarify the verification process for the 5% co-financing? We would like to know if these funds must be fully present on the account at the time of application (March 16th).</p> <p>Q2. What is your approach to co-financed projects?</p> <p>A. The grant applicant is entitled to 80-95% EU contribution of the grant contract value. Other 5-20% of project financing shall come from other sources during the project implementation period if the grant applicant will successfully pass selection process. There is no additional check if the funds are present in the award selection process.</p>
3.	<p>Q. Are in-kind contributions (e.g., volunteer work or donated equipment) eligible to cover part of the 5–20% co-financing requirement, or must it be strictly cash?</p> <p>A. Please refer to the section 2.1.4. of the guidelines for applicants, whereas it is stated that contributions in kind are not eligible under this call for proposals.</p>
4.	<p>Since expenditure verification is mandatory for all SALT III grants, should the audit fee be included under the 'Other' or 'Administrative' budget line, and is there a recommended ceiling for this cost, and other expenditures?</p> <p>A. Yes, audit costs must be included under this call for proposals, please refer to the section 2.1.4. of the guidelines for applicants and the project budget form (Annex B). The guidelines do not define a ceiling for audit costs in this call for proposals.</p>
5.	<p>Q1. Regarding the 5% co-financing (Section 1.3): Could you clarify if this non-EU financial contribution can be composed of accumulated membership fees or multiple small-scale private donations (crowdfunding)? Additionally, is it mandatory for these funds to be fully present on the organization's bank account by the application deadline (March 16th), or is a formal declaration of availability sufficient at the proposal stage?</p> <p>Q2. What is your approach to co-financed projects?</p> <p>Q3. Is it possible to include in the application the support of a financial partner that was available before the official launch?</p> <p>A. 5-20% portion of the project budget must be covered by sources other than the EU contribution. The non-EU financial contribution may be composed of any sources, provided that these funds are or will be legally available to the grant applicant and can be clearly</p>

	documented during the project implementation period. To the second part of the question please refer to Q2.
6.	<p>Q. Will be funding advanced? or compensated?</p> <p>A. In case of successfully signing grant contract agreement, funding of Grant amount will be paid as pre-financing, except for the established payment of the balance, which is no less than 10% of the grant amount, the latter will be compensated after the final report approval.</p>
7.	<p>Q. Could you please describe in detail how the pre-payment of eligible costs will be organized if a grant is awarded (number of instalments, maximum amount per instalment, guarantees needed).</p> <p>A. Pre-financing of 80% of the Grant amount will be transferred within 30 days from signing of the Grant Agreement in the instances where the beneficiary is a public body or bank guarantee is provided (and in cases where Grant amount is less than EUR 60 000) If neither of the above conditions are met, 80% of the pre-financing will be paid in 2 instalments.</p>
8.	<p>Q. We are writing to request clarification regarding the software purchase provisions outlined in the project agreement. The agreement specifies “Software essential for project implementation,” with a unit of two licenses (one per 350), for a total budget of 700. It also explicitly mentions several software examples, such as Adobe Photoshop, Dropbox, and Transcribus.</p> <p>In this context, we would like to kindly confirm the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the project is strictly limited to purchasing the specific software solutions mentioned in the agreement, or whether these are provided as illustrative examples of acceptable tools. • Whether software that operates under alternative licensing or payment models - such as token-based or usage-based payment systems - would be considered acceptable, provided the software is essential for project implementation and remains within the approved budget. <p>A. The Guidelines for Applicants provide illustrative examples of acceptable software tools so that you can plan to purchase other software tools that are not listed in the Guidelines but are necessary for your projects. The costs for purchasing software will have to be justified and based on the project needs</p>

3. Questions related to the EdTech platform

1.	<p>Q. Should all project materials be hosted on the foundation's platform? If the project involves purchasing hosting and creating an educational online platform for intersectoral collaboration, should it be hosted on the foundation's platform?</p> <p>A. If you have one or two courses, you may upload them to the platform yourself. However, if you have several courses, we will provide you with a virtual private space where you can create</p>
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	your own small platform using our resources. In all cases, you may contact us, and we will find a solution. The platform will be based on the Moodle model.
2.	<p>Q. How long EdTech platform will operate and will be supported?</p> <p>A. The EdTech platform will be supported at least until August 2029.</p>
3.	<p>Q. What if we already have our own platform? Do we still have to upload everything to your platform?</p> <p>A. You may provide a link to your platform, and it is not necessary to duplicate the information across platforms. However, certain outputs must be developed within the project and uploaded to the EdTech platform. There will be a catalogue of courses and EdTech apps where almost anyone can leave a link to their product.</p>
4.	<p>Q. Regarding Section 2.1.3: What are the technical requirements for "EdTech platform compatibility" for projects that conclude before the platform's official launch in mid-2026?</p> <p>A. Technical compatibility requirements can be described as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course materials and learning content are developed in Moodle-compatible export formats, such as Moodle course backups (.mbz), SCORM, IMS Common Cartridge, or other Moodle-friendly standards, so they can be imported later; • Interactive content and assessments use standards (e.g., LTI tools, question bank formats) that Moodle supports or can integrate with; • Any external learning tools or mini-apps are designed to comply with LTI (Learning Tools Interoperability) or Moodle's REST API standards, enabling future connection. <p>However, putting it in simple language and taking into account that the Platform is based on Moodle Enterprise solution, I'd say - the best option is to create your product from the outset inside of Moodle.</p>
5.	<p>Should the costs for 'Moodle course design/architecture' be included in our budget, or does CPVA provide technical experts to help with the migration of our content to the platform?</p> <p>A. All costs related to uploading materials to the EdTech platform will be covered and free of charge provided they are compatible with Moodle standards. However, the costs of preparing the training and education content, design and etc. required for the development of educational project outputs must be included in the project budget.</p>

