

Interreg



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IPA Croatia – Serbia

**Interreg VI-A IPA Croatia – Serbia
2021-2027**

2nd Call for Proposals

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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Table of contents

1. GENERAL	3
2. ELIGIBILITY.....	5
3. BUDGET	10
4. APPLICATION.....	11
5. IMPLEMENTATION.....	12

1. GENERAL

Q: Zanimalo bi me postoji li opcija "assimilated partner" (kao u Interreg Italy-Croatia) za drugi poziv na Interreg Croatia-Serbia? Naime, s partnerima u Novom Sadu razmatramo projekt s robotičkom primjenom na rijeke/jezera gdje u principu FER ima glavno i izgleda jedino veće iskustvo u HR.

A: All organizations, participating under 2nd CfP, are called partners. All partners must have human, legal, financial and operational capacity to participate in the Programme. The possibility of including an institution in the project as an assimilated partner does not exist.

Please bear in mind that in order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant must meet all of the criteria in section 4.3.1. Eligibility of applicants/partners of 2nd Call for Proposals Guidelines for Applicants. According to section 4.3.1. Eligibility of applicants/partners of 2nd Call for Proposals Guidelines for Applicants the applicant must be established under the national law in the respecting participating country (Croatia and/or Serbia) regardless of the Programme area.

Q: Da li je moguće sudjelovanje na ovom projektu, Agronomskog fakulteta koji ima sjedište u Zagrebu?

A: Please bear in mind that in order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant must meet all of the criteria in section 4.3.1. Eligibility of applicants/partners of 2nd Call for Proposals Guidelines for Applicants. According to section 4.3.1. Eligibility of applicants/partners of 2nd Call for Proposals Guidelines for Applicants the applicant must be established under the national law in the respecting participating country (Croatia and/or Serbia) regardless of the Programme area.

Q: I would need information or help about one issue considering Interreg Croatia-Serbia (2nd call). At your pages it is stated that this is priority axis and specific objective below: Priority Axis 2: Cooperating for greener and climate change resilient programme area, Specific objective: RSO2.4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches, but when I enter the Jems system and application the only option under 2 - Cooperating for greener and climate change resilient programme area is: RSO2.2: Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein. I am little bit confused now. Can you make clear this for me, please?

A: Please bear in mind that on the Programme website both Specific Objectives in Priority 2 of the Programme are listed:

- RSO2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein
- RSO2.4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches

In the Guidelines for Applicants for the 2nd Call it is correctly stated that only RSO2.2. is open for submission of project proposals. The reason is that the Programme already allocated (contracted) all the available funds for RSO2.4. within the 1st Call for Proposals and two OSIs (Operations of Strategic Importance). Therefore, there will be no further Calls for Proposals targeting RSO 2.4. in this financial perspective. We encourage you to consider other Specific Objectives available within the 2nd Call for Proposals.

Q: Poštovani, s obzirom na to da prijavitelji registrirani u Gradu Zagrebu nisu prihvatljivi, molim vas pojašnjenje odnosi li se taj kriterij i na institucije poput Fakulteta elektrotehnike i računarstva (FER), koji je dio Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, ali djeluje na nacionalnoj razini te provodi projekte i pruža usluge diljem Republike Hrvatske?

A: Please bear in mind that in order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant must meet all of the criteria in section 4.3.1. Eligibility of applicants/partners of 2nd Call for Proposals Guidelines for Applicants. According to section 4.3.1. Eligibility of applicants/partners of 2nd Call for Proposals Guidelines for Applicants the applicant must be established under the national law in the respecting participating country (Croatia and/or Serbia) regardless of the Programme area.

Q: Can you please tell us if the Medicine University of Zagreb, more precisely, Center under the University, can be a partner on the project despite the fact that the City of Zagreb doesn't belong to the eligible programme area? Their participation in the project is of great importance and we would like to highlight the fact that all project activities will be carried out in eligible programme area.

A: Please note that the applicant must meet all the criteria in section 4.3.1 in order to be eligible for a grant. Eligibility of applicants/partners 2nd call for proposals Guidelines for applicants. According to section 4.3.1. Eligibility of applicants/partners 2nd call for proposals Guidelines for applicants, the applicant must be established in accordance with national law in the relevant participating country (Croatia and/or Serbia) regardless of the programme area. Therefore, an institution can be outside the programme area as long as it is registered in the relevant participating country, Croatia and/or Serbia.

Q: Obraćamo vam se u vezi sa drugim otvorenim pozivom za Interreg IPA program Hrvatska-Srbija. Zanima nas da li organizacija iz Beograda može učestvovati kao projektni partner. U tom slučaju, aktivnosti bi se sprovodile na području koje pokriva projekat, ali jedan od partnera geografski ne bi pripadao tom području. Na listi implementatora iz prethodnih poziva primetili smo da su među partnerima bile organizacije iz Beograda i Zagreba. Slično pitanje je postavljeno u dokumentu sa pitanjima i odgovorima (Q&A), ali odgovor, koji se poziva na odeljak o prihvatljivosti u zvaničnom

priručniku za podnosiocje prijava, ne pruža jasan i direktan odgovor na ovo specifično pitanje. Bili bismo vam zahvalni ako biste nam mogli pružiti ovu informaciju ili nas uputiti na odgovarajući kontakt gde bismo mogli dobiti pojašnjenje.

A: Please note that the applicant must meet all the criteria in section 4.3.1 in order to be eligible for a grant. Eligibility of applicants/partners 2nd call for proposals Guidelines for applicants. According to section 4.3.1. Eligibility of applicants/partners of the Guidelines for applicants document, the applicant must be established in accordance with national law in the relevant participating country (Croatia and/or Serbia) regardless of the programme area. Therefore, an institution can be outside the programme area as long as it is registered in the relevant participating country, Croatia and/or Serbia.

Q: Nastavno na IPA Croatia- Serbia, 2nd Call for Proposals, Da li je moguće da jedna organizacija iz Hrvatske podnese dva projektna prijedloga, svaki s različitom organizacijom iz Srbije?

A: Yes, it is possible. There is no limit on the number of project proposals submitted by one applicant, nor is there a limit on the number of applications submitted by the same partnership. Please note that one institution / organization can be selected for funding in a maximum of three (3) operations.

Q: Smiju li u interreg HRV-SRB sudjelovati udruge registrirane u gradu Zagrebu? Naravno da bi područje djelovanja bilo pogranično, međutim pitam zbog činjenice da smo registrirani u gradu Zagrebu, te zbog činjenice da na strani 24 javnog poziva, poglavlje 4.3.1. Elegibilnost aplikantata - nije naznačeno da udruge moraju biti registrirane na interesnom području fonda. Navodi se samo da moraju biti registrirane u RH.

A: Please note that the applicant must meet all the criteria in section 4.3.1 in order to be eligible for a grant. Eligibility of applicants/partners 2nd call for proposals Guidelines for applicants. According to section 4.3.1. Eligibility of applicants/partners of the Guidelines for applicants document, the applicant must be established in accordance with national law in the relevant participating country (Croatia and/or Serbia) regardless of the programme area. Therefore, an institution can be outside the programme area as long as it is registered in the relevant participating country, Croatia and/or Serbia.

Q: Postovani, mora li NGO biti registrovan na području opština i županija koje se pominju kao područje delovanja ili je to područje samo za projektne aktivnosti? U prevodu, može li NGO biti iz Beograda?

A: Please note that the applicant must meet all the criteria in section 4.3.1 in order to be eligible for a grant. Eligibility of applicants/partners 2nd call for proposals Guidelines for applicants. According to section 4.3.1. Eligibility of applicants/partners of the Guidelines for applicants document, the applicant must be established in accordance with national law in the relevant participating country (Croatia and/or Serbia) regardless of the programme area. Therefore, an institution can be outside the programme area if it is registered in the relevant participating country, Croatia and/or Serbia.

- Q:**
1. Da li reference letter od banke treba biti na engleskom jeziku ili može srpski/hrvatski?
 2. Da li to referentno pismo trebaju priložiti svi koji su selektovali "private" u "legal status" kod identifikacije beneficiaries?
 3. Da li registracioni akt i GFI za prethodno 2 zatvorene godine treba da šaljemo u trenutku slanja projekta (pre 20.2.2025.) ili kada nam to zatražite vi?
 4. Da li je dovoljno da priložimo samo akt o registraciji - najnovije rešenje APR-a (mi smo udruženje - NVO) ili trebamo poslati i poslednji statut?

A: 1. The reference letter from the bank where the private applicant holds an account can be issued in English or in national languages (Croatian/Serbian).

2. Non-profit organizations governed by private law need to deliver Reference letter from the bank.

3. For eligibility check of all partners, supporting documents should be annexed to application (scanned as PDF and uploaded via Jems) and sent together with the completed application by the deadline for submitting project proposals which is 20 February 2025.

4. Eligibility of applicants (partners) is subject of Step 1 (Admissibility and eligibility check) according to Guidelines for Applicants (section 6.1). Therefore, we cannot provide specific information related to any of the eligibility criteria at this stage. Furthermore, according to section 4.3.1. Eligibility of applicants/partners of the Guidelines for applicants document non-profit organizations governed by private law shall prove their non-profit status by submitting both the statute and registration act and/or decision on establishment. Non-profit organizations which non-profit status is determined by the law, should not deliver a statute but only a registration act and/or decision on establishment (e.g. NGOs).

Further information concerning your question, however, can be found in the following section of the 2nd Call for Proposals Guidelines for Applicants:

- Section 4.3.1. Eligibility of applicants/partners

2. ELIGIBILITY

Q: Molim Vas za potvrdu da je u okviru drugog poziva programa INTERREG IPA Croatia-Serbia Regionalna razvojna agencija Bačka d.o.o. Novi Sad (RRA Bačka) prihvatljiv partner. RRA Bačka je osnovana od strane 16 jedinica lokalne samouprave (vlasništvo 95,56%) i 4 subjekta iz javnog/privatnog sektora (4,44% od 100% vlasničke strukture). Dalje, RRA Bačka je neprofitna organizacija osnovana sa ciljem sprovođenja aktivnosti koje doprinose socio-ekonomskom razvoju regiona u kome deluje.

Na prošleme pozivu ispostavilo se da nismo prihvatljiv partner, te projekti koje smo predali nisu prošli početnu, administrativnu proveru. Sada, potencijalni partneri imaju bojazan (opravdanu) da im projekti ne budu ponovo neprihvatljivi za finansiranje zbog našeg statusa, te Vas molim za potvrdu naše podobnosti da učestvujemo u konkursu za finansiranje projekata u okviru 2. poziva.

A: Eligibility of applicants (partners) is subject of Step 1 (Admissibility and eligibility check) of 2nd Call for Proposals Guidelines for Applicants (section 6.1). Therefore, we cannot provide specific information related to any of the eligibility criteria at this stage.

Further information concerning your question, however, can be found in the following section of the 2nd Call for Proposals Guidelines for Applicants:

- Section 4.3.1. Eligibility of applicants/partners

In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

- be a legal person established under the national law in the respecting participating country (Croatia and/or Serbia) and registered at least 12 months prior to the deadline for the submission of applications; and
- be non-profit making; and
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the proposed project activities both from a professional and financial point of view and must not act as intermediaries.

In general, the following organisations are eligible to apply for the EU contribution allocated to the Programme:

- 1) National, regional and local public bodies, meaning legal entities established and governed by public law, assigned with special competencies and performing tasks in public interest; or
- 2) Bodies governed by public law as defined in point (4) of article 2(1) of Directive 2014/24/EU on public procurement, meaning organizations established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character, having legal personality, and – which are either - financed, for the most part, by the state, regional or local authorities or by other bodies governed by public law; or - subject to management supervision by those bodies; or - have an administrative managerial or supervisory board, with at least half of the members appointed by the state, regional or local authorities or by other bodies governed by public law; or
- 3) Non-profit organizations governed by private law, established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character which have an

annual income⁹ for the two last closed financial years (cumulatively) in amount at least equal to amount of grant requested (grant size of specific partner, not total project).

Q: Obraćam Vam se s molbom za pojašnjenje kriterija prihvatljivosti partnera unutar INTERREG programa, kako bismo osigurali da naši potencijalni partneri ispunjavaju sve potrebne uvjete. Konkretno, htjeli bismo potvrditi prihvatljivost sljedećih organizacija kao partnera u našem projektu:

1. Srijemska biskupija u Srbiji:

- S obzirom na to da je Srijemska biskupija, kao i druge tradicionalne vjerske zajednice, priznata kao pravna osoba prema srpskom zakonodavstvu i neprofitnog je karaktera, htjeli bismo potvrditi ispunjava li ova organizacija sve potrebne uvjete za sudjelovanje kao partner u Interreg projektu?

2. Caritas Srijemske biskupije u Srbiji:

- Ukoliko Caritas Srijemske biskupije nije zasebno civilno registriran kao pravna osoba (npr. udruženje, fondacija ili ustanova), zanima nas može li biti prihvatljiv partner, ili bi se mogao uključiti isključivo putem Srijemske biskupije koja je već registrirana?

3. Caritas Đakovačko-osječke nadbiskupije u Hrvatskoj:

- Isto tako, molimo za potvrdu prihvatljivosti Caritasa Đakovačko-Osječke nadbiskupije kao partnera, u skladu s kriterijima.

A: Eligibility of applicants (partners) is subject of Step 1 (Admissibility and eligibility check) of 2nd Call for Proposals Guidelines for Applicants (section 6.1). Therefore, we cannot provide specific information related to any of the eligibility criteria at this stage.

Further information concerning your question, however, can be found in the following section of the 2nd Call for Proposals Guidelines for Applicants:

- Section 4.3.1. Eligibility of applicants/partners

In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

- be a legal person established under the national law in the respecting participating country (Croatia and/or Serbia) and registered at least 12 months prior to the deadline for the submission of applications; and
- be non-profit making; and
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the proposed project activities both from a professional and financial point of view and must not act as intermediaries.

In general, the following organisations are eligible to apply for the EU contribution allocated to the Programme:

- 1) National, regional and local public bodies, meaning legal entities established and governed by public law, assigned with special competencies and performing tasks in public interest; or
- 2) Bodies governed by public law as defined in point (4) of article 2(1) of Directive 2014/24/EU on public procurement, meaning organizations established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character, having legal personality, and – which are either - financed, for the most part, by the state, regional or local authorities or by other bodies governed by public law; or - subject to management supervision by those bodies; or - have an administrative managerial or supervisory board, with at least half of the members appointed by the state, regional or local authorities or by other bodies governed by public law; or
- 3) Non-profit organizations governed by private law, established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character which have an annual income⁹ for the two last closed financial years (cumulatively) in amount at least equal to amount of grant requested (grant size of specific partner, not total project).

Q: Molim Vas da nam u skladu sa našim Statutom i izmenama i dopunama Statuta koji Vam šaljem u prilogu odgovorite da li ispunjavamo uslov da sa Vukovarsko-Srijemskom Županijom kao nosioca projekta na prekogranični INTERREG natječaj Hrvatska-Srbija pojavimo kao partner iz Republike Srbije. U dobijanju brzog odgovora, srdačno Vas pozdravljam, Novinsko-izdavačka ustanova "hlas ljudu".

A: Eligibility of applicants (partners) is subject of Step 1 (Admissibility and eligibility check) of 2nd Call for Proposals Guidelines for Applicants (section 6.1). Therefore, we cannot provide specific information related to any of the eligibility criteria at this stage.

Further information concerning your question, however, can be found in the following section of the 2nd Call for Proposals Guidelines for Applicants:

- Section 4.3.1. Eligibility of applicants/partners

In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

- be a legal person established under the national law in the respecting participating country (Croatia and/or Serbia) and registered at least 12 months prior to the deadline for the submission of applications; and
- be non-profit making; and
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the proposed project activities both from a professional and financial point of view and must not act as intermediaries.

In general, the following organisations are eligible to apply for the EU contribution allocated to the Programme:

- 1) National, regional and local public bodies, meaning legal entities established and governed by public law, assigned with special competencies and performing tasks in public interest; or

- 2) Bodies governed by public law as defined in point (4) of article 2(1) of Directive 2014/24/EU on public procurement, meaning organizations established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character, having legal personality, and – which are either - financed, for the most part, by the state, regional or local authorities or by other bodies governed by public law; or - subject to management supervision by those bodies; or - have an administrative managerial or supervisory board, with at least half of the members appointed by the state, regional or local authorities or by other bodies governed by public law; or
- 3) Non-profit organizations governed by private law, established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character which have an annual income⁹ for the two last closed financial years (cumulatively) in amount at least equal to amount of grant requested (grant size of specific partner, not total project).

3. BUDGET

Q: Obraćam vam se u vezi s projektom koji planiramo prijaviti na Interreg program. Imamo pitanje u vezi s pokrivanjem troškova osoblja za već zaposlene radnike u našoj instituciji. Naime, željeli bismo saznati hoće li troškovi osoblja (staff costs) za već zaposlene osobe u našoj instituciji biti isplaćeni instituciji prijavitelju? Također, molimo za pojašnjenje eventualnih uvjeta ili zahtjeva koje trebamo ispuniti kako bi ovi troškovi bili prihvaćeni i isplaćeni.

A: Please note that each Partner shall include staff costs as a cost category in its respective partner budget, meaning that each Partner must plan at least one person working on project. Also, each Partner shall ensure that at least one person is working on a project during the entire implementation of a project (internal project staff), regardless which budgeting option is applied for Staff costs category (real cost or flat rate). Staff costs may be reimbursed in two ways:

- as a flat rate of up to 20% of direct costs other than staff costs
- on a real cost basis (proven by the employment document and payslips)

If staff costs are budgeted as flat rate (up to 20 % of direct costs other than staff costs) list of personnel who will work on the project (free form) should be enclosed in the Jems. At least one employee has to be involved in the implementation of a project (a free form list or a declaration issued by the beneficiary's legal representative or delegated person should be delivered for audit trail purposes). No documentation on staff costs will be required to be provided to the controllers. However, the beneficiary is responsible to ensure that under this cost category only staff costs are incurred.

If staff costs is budgeted on a real cost basis, staff may be employed on the project full time and/or - part-time with a fixed percentage of time worked per month. No working time registration system (timesheet) is required for staff working full-time in the operation nor for the staff working part-time in the operation with a fixed percentage of time per month.

Each eligible expenditure under all expenditure categories (including staff costs) will be reimbursed by applying the Programme co-financing rate (max. 85%).

Further information concerning your question can be found in the section 4.5.1. Staff costs, Programme Manual on Eligibility.

Q: Imamo dilemu u vezi izbora opcije budžeta za plate. Nas je 3 partnera (2+1). Dva partnera bi izabrala opciju 1. "Flat rate of up to 20% of direct costs" a treći partner bi odabrao najradije opciju 2. "Real cost basis". Koliko se sećam s informative radionice rečeno je da se svi partneri moraju dogovoriti i izabrati svi jednu od dve ponuđene mogućnosti. Da li je to tačno ili ipak jedan partner može birati opcije 1 a drugi recimo opciju 2 u okviru istog projekta?

A: Please note that each partner within one operation may choose between two options. Therefore, each partner chooses the method that suits them, regardless of which method was chosen by other partners in the project. However, option chosen shall be applied for the whole project implementation period and cannot be changed.

Q: Molio bih vas odgovor na sljedeće pitanje vezano uz 2. poziv IR- Hrvatska- Srbija. Prijavitelj je KUD koje nema stalno zaposlenih osoba. Planiramo za provedbu dijela sadržajnih projektnih aktivnosti stalno zaposliti jednu osobu (trenutno nezaposlenu), a na pola radnog vremena drugu osobu za računovodstveni dio posla(trenutno nezaposlenu). Kako je moguće honorirati rad drugih uključenih u provedbu aktivnosti (trenutno zaposlenih u punoj satnici kod drugih poslodavaca) ako je ugovor o djelu nedozvoljen imajući u vidu da bi odabrali Opciju 2 iz SCO.

A: Please note that Staff costs are defined as gross employment costs of staff employed by the beneficiary, who are formally engaged to work on the operation. Staff can either be already employed by the beneficiary or employed specifically for the operation in line with national legislation and internal rules of the beneficiary institution. There is no possibility of engaging other persons who are not employees of the institution that is a partner in the project and paying their fees/salaries through the Staff cost category, regardless of whether the partner chooses Option 1 or Option 2 as a budgeting option.

4. APPLICATION

Q: Dear Managing Authority, I am writing to seek clarification regarding the documentation requirements for investments within project proposals under the 2nd Call for Proposals of the Interreg VI-A IPA Croatia-Serbia Programme.

Our project proposal includes an investment component, and we would like to confirm the correct method for presenting this in the Application Form. Specifically, we would appreciate your guidance on whether:

- it is sufficient to complete only the Investment section within the relevant Work Package, or
- we should also define a separate activity within the same Work Package that specifically relates to the investment, with the investment listed as its deliverable.

While we have carefully reviewed the Application Manual and Guidelines for Applicants, this specific aspect remains unclear. Your clarification would help us ensure our application fully complies with Programme requirements.

A: Please note that Investment part of WP(s) is not mandatory. Investment is to be filled in by the applicants only if the project foresees investment(s) and only in relevant WP(s). Therefore, our advice would be to fill out both, the Investment section of a WP and to list it as an activity with an appropriate deliverable.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

Q:

A: