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|  | **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**  **Procedure for acceptance of project proposals for grants from the Republic of Bulgaria** |

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria through the Embassy / Consulate General of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Lebanese Republic announces a procedure for the acceptance and selection of proposals for projectsto be implemented with a grant through the Official Development Assistance of the Republic of Bulgaria, with an initial implementation period in 2023.

**Priority Areas for Project Implementation on the territory of Lebanon:**

*- Providing quality and inclusive education;*

*- Sustainable economic development and support for sustainable employment, overcoming the negative socio-economic consequences of COVID-19.*

**1. Objectives and Scope of the Projects:**

*The specific objectives and scope of the projects are:*

*- Peace and justice;*

*- Quality education;*

*- Good health;*

*- Secure jobs and economic growth;*

*- Gender equality;*

*- Combating climate change.*

**2.  Target Groups:**

*The conditions of the projects allow them to be aimed at achieving the set goals to a limited number and scope of users. It is mandatory that the target groups include a fair distribution of beneficiaries. Lebanese citizens of different genders, ethnicities, faiths or religions should be able to equally benefit from the projects.*

**3. Outputs/Results:**

*The expected results from the implementation of the projects are achievement of at least some of the set priorities and goals and affirmation of Bulgaria's reputation and international prestige. The expectations are mostly related to the creation of conditions for the provision of quality and inclusive education in the common national values in Lebanon, as well as support for sustainable employment in individual institutions of national importance.*

**4. Eligible Project Budget:**

4.1. Minimal amount of the project is 5 000 BGN.

4.2. Recommended maximum amount of the project is:

* for projects with main purpose to deliver goods and /or services - up to 50 000 BGN;
* for projects with main purpose to carry out repairs and /or construction activities - up to 80 000 BGN.

4.3. Co-financing of project activities provided by the applicant will be considered an advantage in the evaluation, selection and approval of the projects.

**5. Implementation Deadlines and Duration of the Projects:**

5.1. Project proposals must contain an indicative start date for the implementation of the project after March 1, 2023 and no later than November 30, 2023.

5.2. Projects must be completed no later than December 31, 2025.

**6. Eligible Candidates:**

* Primary and secondary budget spenders - legal entities of Lebanon;
* International and local non-governmental organizations;
* Municipalities and their associations;
* Educational, health and social institutions;
* International humanitarian organisations;
* Others (depending on country specificity).

No natural or legal person can apply for whom there are circumstances under Art. 23, para. 3-8[[1]](#footnote-1) of Decree No. 234 of the Council of Ministers of 01.08.2011 on the policy of the Republic of Bulgaria on participation in international development cooperation**.**

**7. Eligible Activities and Project Costs:**

**7.1. The costs of project implementation must meet all of the conditions below:**

- be lawful and comply with the principles of responsibility, economy, efficiency, effectiveness and transparency;

- be executed only against the necessary supporting documents - invoices or other documents of equivalent probative value, testifying the expenditures incurred;

- be within the budget limits of the project;

- not be funded by another project, program or any other financial scheme, related to or originating from the national budget, the EU budget or any other donor.

**7.2.** **Compulsory Activities to be provided in the Project:**

- provision of an audit report issued by an independent financial auditor;

- activities to ensure publicity and visibility of the financial assistance provided, in accordance with the Publicity and Visibility Guidelines of the Bulgarian Development Aid, worth 3 to 5% of the total project value, but not exceeding 5 000 BGN.

**7.3. Examples of Activities Eligible for Funding:**

*It is desirable to include activities that contribute to the strengthening of public institutions in Lebanon, responsible for the development and/or implementation of national policy in the priority areas and aimed at helping to strengthen their transparency, accountability and efficiency, which contribute to strengthening the development of civil society and enhancing its contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development. These can be:*

*- Development of new/updating of existing training modules;*

*- Organizing and conducting trainings for the employees of the Lebanese administration;*

*- Conducting trainings on specific topics in or by Bulgarian institutions for exchange of good practices and raising the qualification of the employees of the Lebanese administration;*

*- Development of research and strategies;*

*- Activities to raise awareness of citizens' rights;*

*- Activities to promote multicultural dialogue and to reduce racism, xenophobia, hate speech, discrimination and intolerance in society;*

*- activities related to improving the quality of the infrastructure and increasing the potential of the sites through supply of equipment and materials, construction works, rehabilitation, renewal, measures for preservation and improvement of the existing infrastructure and sites in it, such as maintenance, restoration and etc.*

**8. Required Documents for Application:**

An Application Form is available on the following website in Bulgarian and English:

<https://www.mfa.bg/bg/3866>

All parts of the application form should be duly completed in Bulgarian and /or English. In case of any deficiencies that hinder the evaluation of the project proposal, the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Lebanon may require additional information within a short period of time. Failure to provide such information within the deadline shall be considered a ground for rejection of the proposal.

**9. Method and Deadlines for Projects Applications:**

*The deadline for calls for proposals is June 30, 2021.*

*Taking into account the challenges due to the danger of infection with COVID-19, the project documents should be send to the e-mail address of the embassy:* [*embassy.beirut@mfa.bg*](mailto:embassy.beirut@mfa.bg) *both in electronic MS Word format and scanned in .pdf format.*

**10. Additional Information:**

Applicants shall be informed of the results of the procedure for evaluation, selection and approval of the project proposals within 14 working days of the completion of the individual stages of the procedure. The Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Lebanon has no obligation to inform applicants about the grounds for approval or rejection of the submitted project proposals.

**Annex 1**

**Decree No 234 of the Council of Ministers of 01.08.2011 on the policy of the Republic of Bulgaria regarding its participation in international development cooperation (excerpts)**

**Article 23**(**3**) **A legal person seeking to apply for the provision of development aid must not**:

1. be declared bankrupt;
2. be in liquidation proceedings or in a similar procedure under the national laws and regulations;
3. be in open insolvency proceedings or must not have entered into an out-of-court settlement with its creditors within the meaning of Article 740 of the Commerce Act, and if the applicant is a non-resident – it must not be in a similar procedure under the national laws and regulations, including if its activities are under the court's control or it has ceased its activities;
4. be disqualified from practicing a particular profession or activity under the law of the State in which the offense was committed;
5. have any monetary debts owed to the State or a municipality within the meaning of Article 162, paragraph 2 of the Tax and Social Insurance Procedure Code established by an act of a competent authority which has entered into force, unless rescheduling or deferral of the debts has been allowed, or monetary debts relating to the payment of social insurance contributions or taxes under the legal provisions of the State in which it is established;
6. have any outstanding private debts owed to the State listed in Article 3, paragraph 7 of the National Revenue Agency Act.

**(4) A legal person seeking to apply for the provision of development aid must not have a member of the management body that**:

1. has been convicted by a final sentence for indictable offense;
2. has not fulfilled his/her/its obligations relating to the payment of social insurance contributions or taxes in accordance with the applicable law;
3. has provided deliberately false documents when providing information requested as a condition for financing development aid activities or has not provided such information;
4. has been disqualified from practicing a particular profession or activity under the law of the State in which the offense was committed;
5. is a legal person for which any of the circumstances under paragraph 3 exist;
6. has any outstanding private debts owed to the State listed in Article 3, paragraph 7 of the National Revenue Agency Act.

**(6) Where the members of the management bodies are legal persons, the requirements of paragraph 5 shall apply to their representatives in the relevant management bodies.**

**(7) Persons seeking to apply for the provision of development aid must not**:

1. have a member of a management or supervisory body, as well as such person ad interim, including a procurator or a commercial agent who has “close links”, within the meaning of § 1, item 1 of the Supplementary Provision of the Conflict of Interest Prevention and Ascertainment Act, with the agency administering the relevant project or with senior employees in his/her organisation;
2. have entered into a contract with a person under Article 21 or 22 of the Conflict of Interest Prevention and Ascertainment Act.

1. See Annex 1 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)