

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS EAC/S14/2018**

### **Promotion of European values through sport initiatives at the municipal level**

This call for proposals serves to implement the Preparatory action "Promotion of European values through sport initiatives at the municipal level" in accordance with the Commission Decision C(2018)1602/1 of 21 March 2018 on the adoption of the 2018 annual work programme for the implementation of pilot projects and preparatory actions in the area of education, sport and culture.

This preparatory action proposes to support organisations that promote sport initiatives at local level with the goal of disseminating the positive values of sport.

Values lie in the core of the European Union since the EU project was built on the common values of its Member States. Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) states that the Union is based on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. In this context, Europe needs more cohesive and inclusive societies in order to allow citizens to play an active role in democratic life. By providing a sense of belonging and a strong attachment to the principles and traditions which constitute the heart of open societies, sport can be a powerful tool for promoting common values.

In this perspective, organisations that encourage and support European cities to invest in the promotion of sport and physical activity not only contribute to the health and well-being of local populations, but also to the enhancement of common European values amongst citizens. These organisations help municipalities throughout Europe to increase the number of people who practice sport and physical activity, to integrate communities, to favour investment in sport, and to build bridges with other sectors such as education, health, social affairs, and tourism.

Support for organisations aiming at the promotion of sport and physical activity at municipal level has to be developed, in particular in the context of the European Capital, City, Community and Town of Sport since their action benefits to all citizens. There is a strong interest in our society to support organisations that work all year round active in this field, in terms of capacity building, networking and capacity to develop concrete projects at local level. This support can take different forms. All of them contribute to the promotion of the positive values of sport.

The legal basis of this call for proposals is: Preparatory Action within the meaning of Article 54(2) (b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 (OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1)

## **1. Objectives– Theme(s) – Priorities – Outcomes**

This preparatory action will be implemented into two lots:

- **The general objective of lot 1 is to encourage capacity-building in order to support organisations that promote common values through the development of sport at municipal level throughout the EU;**
- **The general objective of lot 2 is to support the establishment of networking links and mutual information sharing activities between municipalities in areas related to sport.**

**The expected outputs are the following:**

### **Lot 1: capacity-building action**

- Support organisations that promote common values through the development of sport and physical activity at municipal level throughout the EU;
- Help organisations that promote sport at municipal level to become financially sustainable, on the basis of the principles of good governance, as promoted by international organisations and the European Commission;
- Encourage organisations to develop a European approach aiming at promoting sport and physical activity at local or municipal level;
- Give visibility to efforts taken at municipal level to encourage sport and physical activity.

### **Lot 2: networking action**

- Encourage the establishment of links between cities and municipalities at EU level around the promotion of sport and physical activity;
- Support the dissemination of good practices and initiatives taken at local and municipal level throughout the EU;
- Promote "Sport for all", and contribute to the promotion of common values as stated in article 2 of the Treaty;
- Raise awareness about strategies implemented by local authorities with a positive impact upon the well-being of the inhabitants through the practice of sport and physical activity, including in the framework of the European Week of Sport and the #BeActive campaign.

## 2. Eligibility criteria

Only applications from legal entities established in EU Member States are eligible.

For British applicants: Please be aware that eligibility criteria must be complied with for the entire duration of the grant. If the United Kingdom withdraws from the EU during the grant period without concluding an agreement with the EU ensuring in particular that British applicants continue to be eligible, you will cease to receive EU funding (while continuing, where possible, to participate) or be required to leave the project on the basis of Article II.17.2 of the grant agreement.

**Moreover, in order to be eligible, projects must be presented by applicants meeting the following criteria:**

### **For lot 1:**

- Be a public or private organisation with legal personality, active in the sport and physical activity field and organising sport and physical activities.
- Have their registered legal office in one of the 28 EU Member States.

Examples (non-exhaustive list):

- Non-profit organisation (private or public);
- Public authorities (national, regional, local);
- International organisations;
- Sport clubs;
- Universities;
- Educational institutions;
- Companies.

### **For lot 2:**

- Be a public body active at local or municipal level in one of the 28 EU Member States.

Examples (non-exhaustive list):

- Towns/municipalities
- Other levels of local/regional authorities
- Federations/associations of local authorities
- Non-profit organisations representing local authorities.

Natural persons are not eligible to apply for any grant under this call.

In order to assess the applicants' eligibility, the following supporting documents are requested:

- **Private entity:** extract from the official journal, copy of articles of association, extract of trade or association register, certificate of liability to VAT (if, as in certain countries, the trade register number and VAT number are identical, only one of these documents is required);
- **Public entity:** copy of the resolution or decision establishing the public company, or other official document establishing the public-law entity.

### **3. Eligible activities**

Only activities pursuing one or several objectives mentioned in section 1 are eligible.

Moreover:

**For lot 1, organisations need to pursue activities in at least 10 municipalities, all located in different EU Member States. The municipalities in question should be specified in the application form.**

**For lot 2, the applicant public bodies need to establish links with at least 9 public entities (i.e. towns/municipalities, local/regional public authorities, federations/associations of local authorities, or non-profit organisations representing local authorities). The applicant public body and the partner public entities need to be established in at least 3 different EU Member States. The entities in question should be specified in the application form.**

Examples of activities include (non-exhaustive list):

#### **Lot 1:**

- Undertake capacity-building activities to improve the applicant organisations' governance and self-sufficiency;
- Promote/give visibility to efforts undertaken at municipal level to promote sport and physical activity throughout the EU;
- Facilitate the sharing of good practices between municipalities at EU level in areas related to sport and well-being;
- Support initiatives such as sport activities implemented at municipal level aiming at the promotion of common European values.

#### **Lot 2:**

- Establish partnerships with other municipalities in the EU in areas related to sport, health and well-being;

- Facilitate the information exchange flow between municipalities at EU level regarding sport initiatives;
- Involve and raise awareness of citizens at local level about common European values promoted through initiatives such as sport activities.

All activities must take place in the EU Member States.

#### **4. Implementation period**

- Activities may not start before 01 January 2019, or later than 31 March 2019;
- Activities are to be completed by 31 December 2020.

The minimum duration of projects is 6 months.

Applications for projects scheduled to run for a shorter or longer period than that specified in this call for proposals will not be accepted.

The Commission reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available.

#### **5. Award criteria**

Eligible applications/projects will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

##### **Lot 1: Capacity-building grant**

- **Relevance of the project (criterion 1) (maximum 40 points): *A minimum threshold of 24 points out of 40 will be applied to criterion 1; applications falling below this threshold will be rejected.***

Under criterion 1, proposals will be assessed on the basis of the extent to which:

- They contribute to the specific objectives defined in section 1 and are in line with EU policies in the field of sport;
- They are implemented on relevant and concrete identification of the needs of the organisation in terms of capacity-building;
- The organisations themselves are based on the principles of good governance and may demonstrate it, notably with regards to their internal rules.

- **Quality (criterion 2) (maximum 40 points): *A minimum threshold of 24 points out of 40 will be applied to criterion 2; applications falling below this threshold will be rejected.***

Under criterion 2, proposals will be assessed according to the quality of the overall design of the activities proposed and to the methodology used to implement them. The following aspects will be taken into account:

- Number of participants involved in and benefiting from the project's activities;
- Cost efficiency (the extent to which the project is cost-effective and allocates appropriate resources to each activity);
- Sustainability of the proposed activities (the extent to which the activities will be carried out also after the end of the project);
- Consistency between project objectives, methodology, activities and budget proposed;
- Quality and feasibility of the methodology proposed.

- **Management of the project (criterion 3) (maximum 20 points): *A minimum threshold of 12 points out of 20 will be applied to criterion 3; applications falling below this threshold will be rejected.***

Under criterion 3, proposals will be assessed on the basis of the extent to which the applicants demonstrate their ability to organise, coordinate and implement the various aspects of the proposed activities. The following aspects will be taken into account:

- Overall quality of the project team;
- The risks envisaged and their mitigating actions;
- The appropriateness and quality of measures aimed at sharing the outcomes of the project towards external organisations and the general public.

Points will be allocated to eligible applications out of a total of 100 on the basis of the above-specified weighting. Applications falling below any of the thresholds per criterion mentioned above will be rejected.

**Moreover, a minimum threshold of 70 points will be applied for the three award criteria combined.** Applications falling below this threshold will also be rejected.

## **Lot 2: Networking grant**

Eligible applications/projects will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

- **Relevance of the project (criterion 1) (maximum 40 points): *A minimum threshold of 24 points out of 40 will be applied to criterion 1; applications falling below this threshold will be rejected.***

Under criterion 1, proposals will be assessed on the basis of the extent to which:

- They contribute to the specific objectives defined in section 1, in particular with regards to the links created between different municipalities at EU level, and are in line with EU policies in the field of sport;
- The goals of the proposal are clearly defined, realistic and address issues relevant to citizens at local level in different parts of the EU;

- **Quality (criterion 2) (maximum 40 points): *A minimum threshold of 24 points out of 40 will be applied to criterion 2; applications falling below this threshold will be rejected.***

Under criterion 2, proposals will be assessed according to the quality of the overall design of the activities proposed and to the methodology used to implement them. The following aspects will be taken into account:

- Number of participants involved in and benefiting from the project's activities;
- Number and quality of links established between municipalities at EU level;
- Cost efficiency (the extent to which the project is cost-effective and allocates appropriate resources to each activity);
- Sustainability of the proposed activities (the extent to which the activities will be carried out also after the end of the project);
- Consistency between project objectives, methodology, activities and budget proposed;
- Quality and feasibility of the methodology proposed.

- **Management of the project (criterion 3) (maximum 20 points): *A minimum threshold of 12 points out of 20 will be applied to criterion 3; applications falling below this threshold will be rejected.***

Under criterion 3, proposals will be assessed on the basis of the extent to which the applicants demonstrate their ability to organise, coordinate and implement the various aspects of the proposed activities. The following aspects will be taken into account:

- Overall quality of the project team;
- The risks envisaged and their mitigating actions;
- The appropriateness and quality of measures aimed at sharing the outcomes of the project towards external organisations and the general public.

Points will be allocated to eligible applications out of a total of 100 on the basis of the above-specified weighting. Applications falling below any of the thresholds per criterion mentioned above will be rejected.

**Moreover, a minimum threshold of 70 points will be applied for the three award criteria combined.** Applications falling below this threshold will also be rejected.

## **6. Budget available**

The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of projects is estimated at 1.000.000 EUR.

The EU grant is limited to a maximum co-financing rate of 80% of eligible costs. The appropriations for the subsequent years will be confirmed at a later stage.

**The maximum amount to be awarded under lot 1 is 300.000 EUR. The maximum amount per grant under lot 1 will be 300.000 EUR.** The Commission expects to fund approximately 1 project.

**The maximum amount to be awarded under lot 2 is 700.000 EUR. The maximum amount per grant under lot 2 will be 230.000 EUR.** The Commission expects to fund approximately 3 or 4 projects.

The Commission reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available.

## **7. Deadline for submission of applications**

Grant applications must be drawn up in one of the EU official languages, **using the electronic form available on the webpage of the call for proposals.**

The application form duly completed must be submitted before 26/07/2018 (12:00pm Brussels time).

Applications sent on paper, by fax, e-mail, on a USB key or in any other way will not be accepted.

## **8. Additional information**

In case of questions, please contact: [EAC-SPORT@EC.EUROPA.EU](mailto:EAC-SPORT@EC.EUROPA.EU)