



Grant call: Socio-Economic Inclusion of Marginalised in Brčko District

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Introduction and Background

High unemployment rate (exceeding 55%)

Socially disadvantaged or vulnerable groups of the BD population face complex problems in the field of social inclusion and in their efforts to integrate into society

Causes:

- Lack of awareness of job and skills opportunities
- Absence of training and capacity-building services
- Limited psychosocial support
- Ineffective social integration possibilities
- Stigmatization and discrimination

Result:

- Deprivation of dignity, sense of security, the possibility of leading a better life, opportunities to actively express opinions, identity, or the possibility to take place in society as well
- Economic exclusion
- Unfilled vacancies due to a lack of candidates with the required skills and competences
- Lack of personal competences and skills needed to increase their competitiveness in the labor market
- The absence of business infrastructure and services supporting (self-)employment
- Economic emigration of those fit for work



Objectives of the Grant Call

Support innovative and sustainable initiatives

Promote social inclusion and economic empowerment

Foster better employment prospects for vulnerable groups



Geographical and Sectoral Focus of the Grant Call

Focus on Brčko District, with potential for replication throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina

Alignment with Czech Republic's Development Cooperation Program



The Aim and Main Objective of the Grant Call

The aim: promotion of social inclusion and creation of sustainable employment opportunities for disadvantaged or vulnerable groups of the BD population through the implementation of comprehensive intervention and the creation of strategic partnerships.

The main objective: support of the socio-economic integration of disadvantaged or vulnerable groups of the population, with a special emphasis on people with disabilities, women, young people, Roma and other national minorities, LGBTQ+, people in need of housing or people otherwise at risk of poverty and social exclusion living in BD.



Content of Submitted Projects

Comprehensive analysis of specific needs and problems in Brčko District

Measures to promote long-term and sustainable employment

Strengthening rights and supporting systemic changes

Initiatives to facilitate access to microfinance and grants

Support for social enterprises and start-ups (i.e. trainings, workshops, TA etc.)

(Self) Employment Socio-Economic and Entrepreneurship Center

Replication of successful Czech solutions

Targeted awareness raising campaign

Other relevant topics emerging from the socio-economic analysis



Socio-Economic Analysis

Main part and the only mandatory activity of the first phase of the project, which should be finalized during 2023 and submitted to the CzDA for approval by 31.12.2023 the latest. The analysis should contain at least the following topics:

1. Demographics;
2. Socio-economic indicators;
3. Qualifications and education levels;
4. Labour market analysis;
5. Access to services;
6. Infrastructure analysis;
7. Legislative framework;
8. Stakeholder mapping;
9. Proposals for the use of the so-called (Self) Employment Socio-Economic and Entrepreneurship Center;
10. Other topics according to the applicant's proposal



Target Groups

Socially disadvantaged or vulnerable groups of the BD population facing social exclusion and discrimination in various areas of life, including education and employment;

NGOs active in the field of social inclusion, employment and which provide assistance to disadvantaged or vulnerable groups of the BD population;

Social enterprises or social entrepreneurship entities;

Educational institutions (local primary and secondary schools, universities or vocational training centres, etc.);

Providers of social assistance (e.g., social workers, counsellors and other persons involved in the provision of social assistance);

Public administration institutions and bodies of territorial self-government (in particular the Government of the Government and the relevant departments attached to the Government or the Labour Office);

Employment agencies, recruitment firms and counselling centres;

Entrepreneurs and representatives of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and other employers;

Media;

And other groups/individuals that arise during the preparation of the socio-economic analysis.



Mandatory Partner Organisation

Development-Guarantee Fund of Brčko District Government (RGFDB),
International Project Implementation Department (IPIU)

- A public institution established by the Brčko District Government and the main partner of the project

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MoU between the CzDA, the Government of BD and the winning applicant



Project Lead Time

Project implementation period: September/October 2023 - December 2026

Each calendar year of implementation is subject to a separate grant call and releasing of funding to the implementr for that particular year



Grant Allocation and Annual Budget Distribution

Total funds available: CZK 30,000,000 (EUR 1,263,339)

The amount of the requested subsidy in the grant application must not exceed this amount.

For individual years, the amount of the subsidy for one project is set as follows, while the grant applicant may not exceed these amounts in his grant application:

- 2023: 2 000 000,- CZK
- 2024: 10 000 000,- CZK
- 2025: 10 000 000,- CZK
- 2026: 8 000 000,- CZK

Personnel costs must not exceed 25% of the amount of of the grant provided in each calendar year of the project



Q&A

1.

Q: Would it be possible to apply for an extension of the deadline for applying for a grant for the project Socio-Economic Inclusion of the Marginalized in Brcko District?

A: The CzDA decided to extend the deadline for submitting the grant application until 31.8.2023.



Q&A

2.

Q: One of the components of the project that is expected to be implemented this year is a socio-economic analysis of the situation in the Brčko District. The outcomes of the analysis will then significantly influence the design of the project activities. At the same time, the individual activities are expected to be described now within the grant application. To what extent will it be possible to adjust the project on the basis of the results of the analysis? (This question has, of course, also a financial dimension).

A: The primary objective of the analysis is to gather comprehensive and updated data on the socio-economic situation in Brčko District. This data will be a key basis, in particular, for making decisions on the selection of specific beneficiaries, identifying priority areas in the harmonization of legislation with EU standards and ensuring the effective and sustainable use of the SESEEC. In case the results of the analysis lead to significant changes in the project logic or budget, the winning applicant will have the possibility to incorporate these modifications in the application to be submitted under the closed call for grants for 2024. However, it is up to the CzDA whether or not to accept any of the proposed changes. Therefore, it is recommended that the successful applicant communicates the preliminary results of the analysis, as well as any changes from the original project documentation, to the CzDA during the preparation of the analysis, both within the Decision Board Coordination Body meeting and along the working line.



Q&A

3.

Q: Does this grant call take into account the change in the law regarding the permitted transfer of funds to implementing partners at the project site in excess of 2 million CZK per year?

A: The grant call, as well as its Annexes 2 (Assessment of Eligible Expenditure) and 3 (Grant contract) state that the beneficiary is obliged to comply with the current wording of the Czech Public Procurement Act. However, the grant provider notes that point 6 of the Grant contract (Annex 3 of the grant call) remains in force, which states that 'The grant cannot be used to finance other legal or natural persons, except for those who, on the basis of a supplier-consumer relationship with the beneficiary, provide goods or services related to the implementation of the approved project, according to the approved project budget'.



Q&A

4.

Q: In which budget chapter should the mandatory RGFDB partner organization be listed?

A: It is not possible to strictly define a single budget chapter - expenditure should be allocated in accordance with the instructions for completing the Structured Project Budget (Annex III of the Grant Application), where expenditure must be clearly and transparently allocated so that it can be clearly identified and its effectiveness assessed.

In general, the CzDA would prefer this type of expenditure to be listed in Chapter 6 of the Budget - Direct support to target groups. This chapter usually includes expenditure related to activities that directly benefit the project's target groups, which is in line with the RGFDB's role as a partner on the ground. In this context, the donor notes that lump sums included in the budget are acceptable for certain types of expenditure, but should be duly justified. For higher amounts, the CzDA may require a detailed breakdown so that the fulfilment of the 3E principle can be assessed



Q&A

Q: In which budget chapter should the staff cost of the local partner organisation RGFDB be listed?

A: This type of expenditure shall be listed in Chapter 6 – Direct support to target groups. Provided that some works will be outsourced (i.e. contracted to external consultants), these shall be listed in Chapter 3 - Services.



Q&A

Q: Would it be possible to involve other than mandatory local partner organisation in the project proposal ?

A: Yes, applicants are allowed to include any relevant partner organisation to their project proposal if justified and considered beneficial for achievement of project objectives. The roles and responsibilities of partners, their expertise and budgetary and time allocation of their involvement shall be clearly defined. Also, should the need to involve any other partners arise during the actual project implementation (e.g. after the analysis is finalised), this is subject to approval of the CzDA within the project modification procedure.



Q&A

Q: If the project budget is not fully spent within the specific year, is it possible to transfer the unused funds to the next year?

A: Contrary to the EU projects with multi-annual budgeting, the CzDA, as a state organisation, issues Grant Contracts on an annual basis - i.e. the funding has to be spent by 31.12. of the given year. Any unused funds have to be refunded to the state budget. The multi-annual planning perspective (i.e. three years of presumed project implementation) as well as actual project performance are taken into consideration while deciding on the allocation of funds for the subsequent years. Should there be any unspent funds, they will not be automatically reallocated, but these need to be justified and their possible utilisation in the years to come within the project proposed for approval.



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