

CALL FOR PROPOSAL

“Job Creation through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Mozambique – AID 12454”

(ref.: 01/Grant/2023/AICS Maputo/AID 12454)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

(replies updated to 29^h September 2023 – on top the most recent questions)

- 1) **During the presentation session of 11th September, it was highlighted that the breakdown of the scheduled grant were: an initial pre-financing payment of EUR 350,000.00, a 2nd pre-financing payment of EUR 895.000,00, a 3rd pre-financing payment of EUR 816.000,00 and a balance of the final amount (balance) of the grant of EUR 229.000,00. Does this mean that the project budget must be constructed accordingly? I.e., 1st project year (12 months) maximum budget EUR 350,000.00; 2nd project year maximum budget EUR 895,000.00, 3rd project year (12 months) max budget EUR 816,000.00 + EUR 229,000.00??**

Yes, in principle. However, these amounts may be referred to costs for activities to be carried out within shorter periods than 12 months. When the grantee demonstrates expenditure or commitment of the funds received for the minimum percentage indicated in the Annex II of the Contract (Art. 15.1 Option 2), it may request the second tranche of the contract, and so on.

- 2) **How can a university with valuable expertise in the fields of ICT, online education and business&management be part of a consortium applying for the grant, if it has no eligibility because it is not authorised to work in Mozambique, nor is its partner in the country? Can universities participate as associates?**

Universities established in the eligible countries as per the Guidelines for Applicants may team up with other entities as co-applicants or associates. In the minutes of meeting of the info-session held on 11th September 2023 (published at the side of this FAQ file on the AICS website) any prospective Lead Applicant can find the contacts of some Italian universities who availed themselves for participation into a consortium. Other universities can send their contacts, too, and AICS Maputo will publish them to facilitate the communication.

- 3) **Do the hubs need to be inside IFPELAC premises?**

In the project formulation phase and in the most recent discussions with the government partners, the proposal for the locations of the two hubs (one for training with excellence in access and benefit of people with disabilities within the IFPELAC HQ premises, one for incubation and support services for micro-businesses and SME in view of job creation, in Liberdade neighbourhood, Matola City) indicated in the Guidelines for Applicants emerged and were agreed.

4) Is the budget indicated in the Guidelines the total budget of the Call for Proposals (for all the proposals) or the maximum amount for each one?

Under this Call for Proposals only **one grant** will be awarded, of the value indicated in the Guidelines for Applicants (2,290,000 Euro). The awarded Lead applicant or consortium shall ensure **all the outcomes and outputs** set in the Guidelines are achieved through the programme of activities they submit through the application.

5) How can we get the application forms? Are there any indications about the number of pages for the concept note?

The Application Form and all the relevant documents and templates are published on this same website page, close to the Guidelines for Applicants. The Application form indicates the number of pages expected for each section (Concept Note, Full Proposal, etc.).

Kindly refer to these indications (which are the standard ones when adopting the PRAG procedures framework).

6) Is a private vocational training centre eligible to provide services, such as being a training hub as part of the project strategy? Would this institution be in the targeted geographic area of Maputo, Manica and Tete?

The target geographical area indicated in the Guidelines for Applicant refers to the provinces where the activities shall take place and the intended beneficiaries reside, while the Lead or Co-applicant may be based and run other activities in any other province or country.

Therefore, the two hubs (one for vocational training with especial measures and benefit for people with disabilities, for which at the moment it was agreed with IFPELAC to set at their HQ premises in Maputo City, and one for incubation and other support services to start-up and micro-businesses, which INEP proposes to set in Bairro Liberdade, Matola City) shall be located within the target provinces.

Regarding whether a private vocational training centre may be eligible to provide a service for the Action, please refer to the procurement rules established for contractors.

7) Is it possible to explain better the second priority? The aim is job creation through better conditions in order to employ or self-employ 3,000 youth (with special attention to fragile youth groups). How is this indicator going to be monitored? Long term employed or any kind of employment, or self-employment? Should they be 3,000 actually employed or just trained?

The target of 3,000 youth employed refers to realistic and concrete opportunities created for youth through the programme activities. Therefore, just to make some examples, it would not be enough to achieve a target number of people trained, or youth who participated into job fairs, or were registered at the employment centres, or were selected to receive a starter-kit without actual beginning of the business activities.

The programme log frame indicators, the progress monitoring indicators and M&E system shall be proposed by the applicants, based on their international or local experience, their knowledge of the

country's institutional, social, and economic conditions, on discussions with governmental partners, as well as on their understanding and strategy to achieve the expected results set in the Guidelines for Applicants.

8) In the presentation it was explained that the proposal must align with PAPE and IFPELAC training programmes. Is it possible to explore new training courses that will include training of trainers (meaning training for IFPELAC staff), if those are supported by a market analysis/study?

One of the outputs set in the Guidelines for Applicants refers to revised and/or elaborate new curricula, not excluding the training-of-trainers tool, therefore, how to achieve the desired results will depend on the applicants' strategies.

9) About the applicant consortium, are public education entities considered partners in the proposal, may they be Co-applicant and therefore direct beneficiaries of the funds?

The eligibility criteria for Lead applicants, Co-applicants and Associates set in the Guidelines for Applicants do not exclude public entities (except for the connection to decision making processes of the government partners of AICS in this programme – INEP, IFPELAC and INJ).

10) Who are the focal points of the Government institutions the candidates shall collaborate with under the programme and, therefore, in the proposal design phase?

The focal points for information and dialogue during the project formulation and proposal design are the following officials:

- IFPELAC: Ms Glória Banze (lolabanze1@gmail.com)
- INEP: Ms Cecília Sambo (cecilia.sambo@inep.gov.mz)
- INJ: Mr Sarmiento Malahe (smalahe@gmail.com)

11) We would like to support the country's culture sector, but we would first like to be sure that it is feasible. Is it possible for the training to be in the cultural arts sector? Is it necessary for the young people to have a job at the end of the training, or is it enough to do vocational training aimed at creating figures needed in the country?

The objective of the whole programme and of the specific action for which the grant will be awarded is job creation. The end results and impact desired regard an increase in the number of employed youth. The deliverables are more in terms of skills built and transferred, of jobs created to be matched with more capable (trained) youth, of new M/SME created or “accelerated” with new posts and self-employment opportunities, as well as in terms of the matching mechanisms and processes.

The strategy chosen for this programme to create employment is to use the wide set of levers that the ICT tools, skills, and platforms can provide. Therefore, if in the cultural and arts sector (to use as example the sector mentioned in the question) competitiveness can be enhanced and jobs can be created through the digitalisation of a business process, the way a product or service are produced or delivered, or marketed, or registered in the accounting books, etc., then the desired results can be reached and the proposal will be appropriate.

It is up to the applicants to show how the activities they propose are likely to achieve the expected results, irrespective of the specific sector of the economy they wish to focus on.

12) May the training be carried out by an entity other than the Maputo IFPELAC?

The training courses shall refer to IFPELAC standards and Mozambican certified *curricula*, shall strengthen IFPELAC and its network in the capacity to devise, strategically review and deliver training *curricula* for youth in view of the promotion of decent work for all. However, provided the applicant entities agree with IFPELAC on the modalities, methodologies, trainers and contents, other service providers may take part to the realisation of the courses.

13) Are profit entities eligible as co-applicants?

Yes, please refer to section 2.1.1, page 8, of the Guidelines for Applicants.

Please note that, under the General Conditions of the Contract (Annex G II, art. 17.3), no beneficiary entity is entitled to any profit made from the action. Please see also PRAG 6.3.10 for further details.

14) Are co-applicants mandatory?

No, there is no obligation to involve co-applicants.

15) Are UN Agencies, already authorized to operate in Mozambique (but registered outside the EU), and with registry in multiple countries - eligible as a Lead Applicant/ Co-Applicants?

According to section 2.1.1 of the Guidelines for Applicants, lead applicants need to be established in Mozambique or in one of the Member States of the European Union **and** be authorized to operate in Mozambique, while Co-applicants may be established outside the EU (“countries belonging to the OECD as member countries or eligible for development aid according to the OECD-DAC List of ODA Recipients”).

16) Can the applicant communicate freely with the Government institutions mentioned in the call, during the process of the proposal writing?

Yes, all applicants are encouraged to do so. Please, see above the names and contacts of the focal points.

17) Can universities apply to this call for proposals?

Yes, Universities may apply to this call, if they are compliant with the lead applicant or co-applicant eligibility criteria listed in Section 2.1.1 of the Guidelines for Applicants.

18) With respect to being authorized to work in Mozambique, how does this criterion apply to affiliated entities of Lead applicants? And does it also apply to co-applicants?

As regards to **affiliated entities**, most agreements among international NGOs organized as networks, alliances, etc. state that authorisations to operate in the target country(ies) issued for the

affiliated entity (which will act as sub-implementing agency) complies with the eligibility requirements of a lead applicant.

While, as far as **co-applicants** are concerned, this criterion does not apply, as stated in section 2.1.1.

19) What is the target audience that the project aims to encompass?

As stated in Section 1.2, the main target audience are 3.000 young Mozambicans, especially those in vulnerable situations (i.e., women, people with disabilities, people in detention and street dwellers). Moreover, other groups will benefit from the action: trainers, teachers, employment centres' officials, and in general the government institutions the grantees will work with.

20) In regard to funding, are there any prescribed limitations for Operational Costs on the full grant value, or is this left to the consideration of each applicant?

No, there are not prescribed limitations. However, please be aware that “**Budget and cost-effectiveness of the action**” constitutes one of the evaluation criteria set in subsection 6 of the Full Application Evaluation Grid (p. 23 of the Guidelines).

21) Can the 80% threshold mentioned for Maputo be raised to 100%?

No, it may not be 100% because some outputs related to Manica and Tete Provinces need to be delivered.

22) Allocation to ER1 and ER2 is left free, or it also has a foreseen allocation by AICS?

Allocation to ER1 and ER2 is left to applicants' strategy, taking into consideration the expected outputs requested by the action.

23) Should indirect costs be maximum 7% of the direct costs?

Yes, as stated in section 2.1.5 of the amended Guidelines for Applicants (as well as in the Budget template of Annex B and the Special Conditions of Annex G), the total of indirect costs must not exceed 7% of the estimated total eligible direct costs.

24) What is the programme's approach to measuring the long-term impact of job creation? Are there specific metrics that will be used to assess the success of the program after its implementation?

This action is meant to contribute to the wider intervention logic of the overall programme. In order to evaluate the achievement in the long term of the global objective (“sustainable, inclusive, and decent work-creating economic development in Mozambique, especially for the growing youth population”), the following indicators might be considered as appropriate, among others: youth employment rate (with gender and disability disaggregation), Human Development Index, Percentage of the population living below the Poverty Line.

The programme contributes to the achievement of the abovementioned long-term improvement through short-term and medium-term outcomes (expected results and specific objective), in turn attained if the desired outputs (listed in the Guidelines for Applicants) are produced progressively

over the duration of the action. The grant-awarded implementing agencies of the action will bear full responsibility for the outputs and partial responsibility for the outcomes.

Some appropriate indicators for the outcomes could be, for example, the number of youth trained (with a positive evaluation) in courses supported by the programme (disaggregated by gender and disabilities), and their registration on demand & supply-matching platforms, the satisfaction expressed by businesses regarding the content of the training courses, the success rate of the transition from “pre-professional” or professional internships to actual jobs, the number of jobs created for young people (with gender and disability disaggregation, geographical distribution, etc.), income and years in business for self-employed individuals who have benefited from financial support or coaching through government-established programs, among others.

25) As SEJE (and subsequently INEP and IFPELAC) is a constituent of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), is this a limitation in the applying?

The connection between the central authorities mentioned in the Guidelines for Applicants (SEJE, IFPELAC, INEP and INJ) and an organisation, which would prevent the eligibility of the latter according to the criteria set in Section 2.1.1 is to be interpreted as such that there is not full autonomy of the decision centre of the potential applicant in relation to any of the institutions supported by, and working with AICS under the programme “Job Creation through Information and Communication Technologies in Mozambique”.

Therefore, if the International Labour Organisation (ILO) respected the decision-making autonomy and independence condition, and all other eligibility criteria were met, there would be no limitation to the application by this organisation as Lead or Co-applicant.