



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 of the Republic of Bulgaria to Bosnia and Herzegovina, announces a procedure for accepting and selecting proposals for projects to 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina are:

- 1. Improving the quality of education by refining the conditions of the educational process in schools and kindergartens;*
- 2. Protection and promotion of the rights of the child through providing a healthy environment, access to quality services (health and education, including inclusive education for children with disabilities and disadvantaged children), elimination of all forms of violence against children.*

1. Objectives and Scope of the Projects:

- 1. Increased access to education through a modern educational process and/or improving of the educational infrastructure by providing better learning and teaching conditions;*
- 2. Ensuring better healthcare and improved access to health services, incl. by improving the health infrastructure.*

2. Target Groups:

- 1. Pupils and students from educational institutions/schools and kindergartens;*
- 2. Children with special needs and disadvantaged children.*

3. Outputs/Results:

1. *Improving the quality of education and building modern educational infrastructure;*
2. *Raising awareness of children's rights and their protection;*
3. *Providing a healthy and safe environment for children, incl. children with disabilities;*
3. *Promoting reconciliation processes in BiH and eliminating all forms of discrimination, hate speech and xenophobia;*
4. *Affirmation of Bulgaria's reputation and international prestige as a predictable and accountable partner of BiH.*

4. Eligible Project Budget:

4.1. Minimal amount of the project is 50 000 BGN.

4.2. Recommended maximum amount of the project is:

- for projects with main purpose to deliver goods and/or services - up to 70 000 BGN;
- for projects with main purpose to carry out repairs and/or construction activities - up to 100 000 BGN.

4.3. Co-financing of the project activities provided by the applicant will be considered as 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 BiH;
- International and local non-governmental organizations;
- Municipalities and their associations;
- Educational and social institutions;
- International humanitarian organisations;

No natural or legal person can apply for whom there are circumstances under Art. 23, para. 3-8¹ 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 the conditions below:

¹ See Annex 1

- 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:

1. Activities contributing to the strengthening of public institutions responsible for providing education:
 - Development of new/updating of existing training modules;
 - Conducting trainings on specific topics in Bulgarian institutions to exchange good practices and improve the qualification of the employees of the educational institutions;
 - Organizing and conducting seminars, forums, conferences on protection of children's rights;
 - Activities to promote multicultural dialogue and to reduce racism, xenophobia, hate speech, discrimination, and intolerance in society.

2. Activities related to the improvement of the condition of the buildings of the educational institutions, incl. measures to preserve and improve the adjacent infrastructure by:
 - Delivery of equipment and materials intended for rehabilitation of public property buildings- schools, kindergartens, training and support centres;
 - Construction works for improvement and rehabilitation of public property buildings - schools, kindergartens, training and support centres.

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 filled in either in Bulgarian or in English. In case of any deficiencies that hinder the evaluation of the project proposal, the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria to Bosnia and Herzegovina may require additional information

within a short period of time. Failure to provide such information within the deadline shall be considered as a reason for rejection of the proposal.

9. Method and Deadlines for Projects Applications:

*The submission of project proposals under the procedure is carried out only electronically. Applicants fill in and send the Application Form (**inword and pdf format**) to the e-mail of the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as follows:*
embassy.sarajevo@mfa.bg

Deadline: 30.06.2022

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 Bosnia and Herzegovina 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.