

**ESTONIAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS DECISION No 1-2/4-2024**

On the basis of the Government of the Republic of Estonia's Decree No 122 of 16 December 2021 "Conditions and Procedure for Granting Development and Humanitarian Aid" § 4 (1):

1. I hereby announce a call for proposals for the financing of development cooperation projects in Moldova.

2. The aim of the call is to support Moldova's development by using Estonian best practices in activities that promote Moldova's EU integration efforts, strengthening independent media, modernizing education and supporting small business. Projects must support horizontal objectives and contribute to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a cross-cutting manner.

3. The call for proposals will support activities that correspond to the following strands:
 - Activities supporting EU integration, including at regional level;
 - Promoting modern education;
 - Support for small businesses;
 - Strengthening independent media and combating misinformation;
 - Strengthening the digitalisation of the government sector and cyber-centricity capacities;

4. The indicative budget available for this call is EUR 150 000.

5. The minimum amount of the grant requested is EUR 50 000 and the maximum amount is EUR 100 000 per application. The maximum amount of funding is up to 5 % of the total eligible costs.

6. The requirements to be met by the applicant are set out in § 9 of the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Estonia of 16 December 2021 No 122 "Conditions and Procedure for Granting Development and Humanitarian Aid" (hereinafter the Decree).

7. The application must comply with the requirements set out in § 10 of the Decree, and the objective of the activities to be implemented in the application must be in line with the priorities set out in the Estonian Strategy for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid 2024-2030.

8. The call will support projects for an eligibility period of between 1st of March 2024 and the 31st of December 2024.

9. Applicants may submit one application per each action line of the call. This requirement does not apply to higher education institutions.

10. Applications will be assessed on the basis of:

10.1. the relevance of the project to the objective of the call for proposals, the thoroughness and feasibility of the project proposal (weighting up to 25% of the maximum aggregate score);

10.2. the cost-effectiveness of the project (up to 20% of the maximum aggregate score);

10.3. the feasibility of the project's monitoring and results evaluation plan (up to 15% of the maximum aggregate score);

10.4. the applicant's capacity and past performance as a beneficiary of the grant (up to 25% of the maximum aggregated score);

10.5. sustainability of the project, risk assessment (up to 15% of the maximum aggregated score).

11. The members of the committee will assess the application on a scale of 1 to 5 for each evaluation criteria (evaluation methodology in Annex 1).

12. The final mark for an evaluation criteria is the arithmetic mean of the marks awarded by the members of the committee multiplied by the weighting for that criteria. The cumulative mark for the application is the sum of the final marks for the evaluation criteria.

13. After the evaluation, the proposals will be ranked by action line, starting with the proposal with the highest overall score. The ranking shall include the name of the applicant, the total cost, the amount of the grant requested and the overall score of the application. In proposing a proposal for award, the Commission will start with the proposal with the highest overall score and work down the ranking in descending order until the budget for the call for proposals is exhausted.

14. If the cumulative score of the proposals is less than 2,5 (inclusive) or if the arithmetic mean of the scores of the members of the evaluation committee for the first evaluation criteria of the proposal (relevance of the project) is less than 3 (inclusive), the evaluation committee shall propose to the Governing Board of the Centre that the proposal be rejected. Such a proposal will not be included in the ranking of proposals.

15. If two applications receive the same overall score, the committee will further assess their relative merit, if necessary. In the event of a tie, preference shall be given to the higher scoring proposal on the first evaluation criteria. In the case of a tie, preference shall be given to the higher scoring proposal under the next evaluation criteria.

16. The scores for the evaluation criteria and the overall proposal score shall be calculated to two decimal points.

17. For each application, the member of the Commission will fill in the individual evaluation sheet in Annex 1, Part A of the evaluation criteria.

18. The scores given by the members of the committee shall be summarized by evaluation criteria on the evaluation form in Annex 1, Part B.

19. The period of eligibility of the project is the period laid down in the decision granting the grant, during which the project activities start and finish and the costs necessary for carrying out the project are incurred.

20. Eligible costs supported by the application round shall be deemed to be costs if they are necessary for the implementation of the activities, justified, incurred in the course of the supported activities during the eligibility period of the project and in accordance with the legislation and the "Principles and Procedures for the Funding of the Estonian Centre for International Development Cooperation" approved by Decision No. 13 of the Board of the Estonian Centre for International Development of 17.06.2022.

21. The Committee shall propose to the Board of the Estonian Centre for International Development that the application be approved, partially approved or rejected.

22. An application may be partially approved if the financial volume of the applications submitted exceeds the budget of the call or if full approval of the application is not justified. The applicant may respond to a partial application on condition that the objective of the project can be achieved if the application is partially successful.

23. The application must be submitted by a person entitled to represent the applicant or a person authorized to do so on the form provided by the Estonian Centre for International Development to the following e-mail address: taotlused@estdev.ee .

24. Support for the activities specified in the call for proposals may qualify as de minimis aid within the meaning of § 33 (1) of the Competition Act.

25. If the support qualifies as de minimis aid within the meaning of the De Minimis Aid Regulation, the grantor of the support shall verify in the register of state aid and de minimis aid that, in case of granting the support applied for, the de minimis aid granted to the applicant for three consecutive

financial years does not exceed EUR 200 000, together with the support granted under the call for proposals.

26. For the purpose of calculating the amount of de minimis aid, undertakings which are linked with each other within the meaning of Article 2(2) of the De Minimis Aid Regulation shall be considered to be a single undertaking. In addition, for the granting of de minimis aid, account shall be taken of the rules on cumulation of de minimis aid for different purposes laid down in Article 5 of the De Minimis Aid Regulation and, for the granting of block exemption State aid, of the rules on cumulation laid down in Article 8 of the block exemption Regulation.

27. The deadline for submission of proposals is the 15th of February 2024.

/signed digitally/

Klen Jäärats

Member of the board

Annex 1: Application evaluation methodology and evaluation form, 5 pages.