

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Potential applicants are invited to read all questions below for clarifications based on experiences from the previous calls.

### 1. ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANTS / PARTNERS

**Question: I am a researcher/student; I would like to know if I am eligible.**

*Answer: Please note that in accordance with section 2.1.1, only legal persons are eligible, as opposed to natural persons which are not eligible for this call for proposals.*

**Question: Is organisation X / partnership Y eligible?**

*Answer: As stated in page 19 of the guideline 'In the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the AUC cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, a partner, an action or specific activities'*

**Question: Section 2.1.1. states that applicants must be “registered locally in ( or have a memorandum of understanding in relevant research areas, with) an eligible African country prior to the publication of this call for proposals”. Could you please clarify what would constitute an MOU?**

*Answer: In case the applicant / partner is not locally registered, it must have a Memorandum of Understanding with an eligible African country prior to the call, not with any African organisation. A Memorandum of Understanding needs to be signed with a ministry/governmental body, having an effect equivalent to local official registration.*

**Question: Concerning the partnership requirements, in the guidelines (page 9) there is the following statement "Partnerships must involve at least three organisations out of which 2 should be national of African countries, from at least two different African countries. The number of African partners in a partnership should be a majority". Does this mean that if in a consortium we have two European Partners there must be compulsorily at least three African Partners, or two African Partners would be sufficient.**

*Answer: A majority is only reached when the number of African partners in a partnership is greater than the number of non African partners.*

**Question: Is it necessary to have had research collaborations prior to the publication of the Call for Proposals with all the same partners of our network?**

*Answer: It is not necessary for partners to have been working together prior to the call. The partnership can be established for the purpose of the call.*

## 2. ELIGIBILITY OF ACTIONS

**Question: Do we have to exclusively focus the action on the list of sectors that are listed under section 2.1.3 of the guidelines for applicants?**

*Answer: This call applies to actions stated in section 2.1.3. Priority sectors defined under section 2.1.3 are limitative. Actions must focus on one or more of the listed areas / priorities.*

**Question: We would like to know if our project focus is eligible?**

*Answer: As stated in page 19 of the Guidelines for applicants, 'In the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the AUC cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, a partner, an action or specific activities'. Please check section 2.1.3.*

## 3. CONTRIBUTION / GRANT AMOUNT / ELIGIBLE COSTS

**Question: Regarding own financial contribution of partners, in which cases the grant is up to 50% of the total cost of the project and in which cases the grant is up to 80%?**

*Answer: Please refer to section 1.3 of the guideline for applicants "Any grant awarded under this Call for Proposals must fall between the following minimum and maximum percentages of total eligible costs of the action.*

*Minimum percentage: 50 % of the total eligible costs of the action.*

*Maximum percentage: 80% of the total eligible costs of the action (see also section 2.1.4).*

*In no event shall the Contracting Authority's contribution exceed 80% of the total accepted costs".*

*Within these margins, the exact applicable percentage is determined by the applicant only – the applicant is free to choose for which percentage he applies.*

**Question: I would like to ask you to clarify the term 'Contributions in kind'. Is it possible to give a more detailed overview of what items cannot be funded?**

*Answer: Contributions in kind are contributions that do not actually represent cash expenditure from the beneficiary.*

*By contributions in kind we mean the provision of goods or services to the grant beneficiary free of charge by a third party. Contributions in kind do not, therefore, involve any expenditure for the beneficiary and are not entered in his accounts. Consequently, contributions in kind can never appear in the budget of the action as an eligible cost.*

*Please, note that voluntary work is considered as in-kind contribution. However staff involved in the project implementation and management but already regularly paid by the grant beneficiary or his partners is not in-kind contribution. However, formal proof of the costs involved is needed (e.g. salary slips/work time documentation/timesheets).*

*Any other contributions which do not represent actual expenditure (be it equipment, materials, lands...) are considered as contribution in kind and not eligible costs.*