

# INTERVENTION CRITERIA of *eu can aid!* (aisbl)

## 1. TYPE OF SUPPORT

Eu can aid! (ECA) grants financial assistance to small target groups for concrete projects and at a lower level than that which the main fund providers usually provide.

ECA can intervene to help an NGO to collect the funds necessary to obtain co-financing from a large donor (for example, the development co-operation service of a developed country). In this case, it is the ripple effects of ECA's participation which justify its involvement in the co-financing of a relatively large project.

Whether it is alone in supporting a project or whether it co-finances with other fund providers, ECA limits its financial contribution to a few thousand euros (usually from 2000 € to 8000 €) per project. A higher contribution may be envisaged, especially if it can be demonstrated that this will lead to a higher contribution from other providers.

## 2. APPLICANTS

### 2.1. Eligible countries

Based on the categories of countries defined in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) it is ECA's intention to finance as a priority partners in the least developed countries (LDCs), and, secondly, poor regions in middle-income countries and, exceptionally, emerging countries. In the case of emerging countries, ECA intervention will go only to the particularly disadvantaged, ostracised or vulnerable among the population. ECA may exclude from its intervention zone any country or region where violations of human rights or bad governance exist, or where conflict or natural disasters endanger the aims or efficiency of any action undertaken there.

ECA may exclude from its intervention areas where other possible funding sources exist (either the government or NGOs already present)

### 2.2. Type of applicant

The project's applicant for financial support should be a group (i.e. associations, NGOs) officially registered with the local or national authorities and having official statutes.

ECA can consider applications introduced by individual applicants or by service organisations, under the condition that these benefit the needy local groups, at their request or with their agreement; this when the local beneficiaries are not able to formulate their project or implement it without any assistance.

The applicant should ideally have successfully implemented similar projects.

ECA may privilege NGOs having been visited in previous years, either by an international reference or by an ECA member and - in order to take into possible consideration a request – ECA may select NGOs providing an up-to-date website or an annual report and a financial report showing activities carried out in the previous years.

ECA may give priority to NGOs whose leaders' social position in the village or local community and capability are verified.

### **2.3. References**

The applicant should provide independent international references (from OECD Member Countries) to allow ECA to gain evidence from reliable organisations of earlier collaboration and experience, ideally from several such organisations known to ECA.

Preference will be given to projects including organizations providing references who have checked onsite the successful completion of their projects, in particular where collaboration took place over a long period.

## **3. GENERAL CRITERIA**

Supported projects can be classified in ~~three~~ categories:

- Social
- Socio-economic
- Income-generating activities (IGA).

In all cases, the project must meet the following general criteria:

- Directly and concretely benefit the local population. Preference will be given to groups of women or young people.
- Meet real needs and real requests enabling beneficiaries to sustainably improve their lives, clearly identifying the added value of the project compared with the current situation
- Respond to initiatives coming from the field and leading the most unprivileged local population to become self reliant, and involving them in all stages of a project life cycle (design, implementation, management)
- Provide for a contribution of about 5% of the total budget for each project by the concerned local population (i.e. financial contribution or labour or provision of productive factors such as land, premises, equipment etc.)
- Be technically feasible (master implementation and maintenance – e.g. procurement of spare parts) ;
- Guarantee the competence and reliability of the personnel responsible for the project on the ground throughout the time required for the development of the project

- Respect or contribute to environmental protection (and wider sustainable development goals).
- Be coherent with the policy of the government (of the country where the project is located)

A second request from the same applicant, can be considered only after finalisation of the first project and on condition that the update report has been received.

#### ECA DOESN'T SUPPORT:

- The provision of aid workers
- The international transports of goods
- Provision of intellectual services (i.e. feasibility studies, information provision or technical advices)
- Operating costs (running costs) not linked to project implementation;
- Teaching material provision if expressly foreseen by the Government in the frame of its educational system
- ECA does not pay salaries, particularly not for expatriates; unless such costs are indispensable for the realisation of the project (e.g. trainers whose expertise is not available locally) and which cannot be taken on by other donors.
- Governmental organisations and commercial companies
- Medical assistance, provision of drugs or medical equipment, construction of dispensary or medical centres (except in the context of integrated programmes)

## 4. SPECIFIC CRITERIA

### 4.1. Income generating activities

ECA may privilege NGOs with proven experience with similar Income Generating Activities (IGA). If the project is the same zone it already has been operating, the NGO should explain why further funding is needed and provide an evaluation report of the past project.

A detailed Business Plan must be provided, including a 5-year forecast

The proposal should demonstrate the viability at different levels:

- Economic and financial: existence of local market demand for the product to attain profitability, sustainable profit to guarantee self-financing
- Socio-cultural: the project should respect the local culture and, when possible, be supported by the local authorities
- Environmental: the project should have a positive effect on the environment or at least no negative effect
- Technical: the project and the technologies used should be adapted to local conditions (geographic, climatic, environmental etc.)

## **4.2. Social Project**

For example building or improving small social or training infrastructures or schools (roof, equipment etc.), access to water, access to electricity.

These projects must meet the following criteria:

- Coherence of the project with government programme (ex: availability of teachers paid in the long term, etc.)
- Supervision quality
- Success guaranty (expertise in performing work, infrastructure maintenance)
- Existence of pro-forma invoices

### **4.2.1 Education and training**

Education is considered as a key element for development.

However, the requestor should detail the context (including the need for water, latrines, power supply, information on infrastructure, student population, education plan, existence of other donors etc.) and focus on sustainability (including degree recognition, payment of teachers, community support, further possibility to study or use vocational training / secondary education to get or create jobs, etc.).

Pictures of the construction site must be provided before the funding and with the evaluation report.

Funding: funds should be released in several instalments when possible.

### **4.2.2 Water supply**

In particular, the NGO must explain why other solutions aren't appropriate in the specific context of the project and demonstrate the technical feasibility (engineering study) and sustainability (maintenance).

Water supply for human needs will be privileged.

Pictures of the construction site must be provided before the funding and with the evaluation report.

### **4.2.3 Renewable electricity**

Requests for power supply can be considered eligible. However, the NGO should detail technical and economical alternatives.

Pictures of the construction site must be provided before the funding and with the evaluation report.

### **4.2.4 Sanitation (latrines)**

Sanitation must be considered as a complex and broad problem. In particular, education and awareness raising are important as well as end-to-end solutions about hygiene.

Therefore, only latrines in the context of existing infrastructure (having already demonstrated their effectiveness and sustainability), as well as integrated programs, can be supported.

Pictures of the construction site must be provided before the funding and with the evaluation report.

### **4.3. Socio-economic Project**

Regarding vocational training, the projects must meet the following criteria:

- Ensure the existence of a local market for the manufactured products
- Support of beneficiaries in job creation
- Possibility of extension without extra support
- Financial sustainability.

## **5. BUDGET**

The budget is important; it should detail (quantities, unit price, total cost)

- The initial investment (purchase of machinery, equipment, land etc.)
- The recurring expenses
- local populations or each beneficiary expected income compared to previous one (when it exists)
- the return on investment
- an analysis of the local market prices

## **6. SUPPORT FOR RECONSTRUCTION FOLLOWING NATURAL DISASTERS**

Alongside financing development micro-projects, ECA also endeavours to react to natural disasters in the developing countries by making special appeals to the generosity of the staff of the European Institutions. Donations are aimed at rehabilitation or reconstruction rather than at emergency relief (food, shelter, sanitation, etc.). This approach is justified by the fact that, after an initial enthusiastic response of solidarity to provide first aid, it becomes more difficult to collect funds for the equally necessary needs of reconstruction, the repair of collective installations or the relocation of the people affected. ECA endeavours to follow the same criteria as those it applies for development micro-projects.

## **7. ADDENDUM FOR CRITERIA ABOUT INTEGRATED PROGRAMS**

Besides the above-mentioned intervention criteria, ECA can also adopt proven integrated programs on a medium or long term.

It is ECA's conviction that breaking the cycle of poverty and creating long-term sustainable changes involve a holistic and integrated vision on a long-term scale.

Integrated programs - affecting a well-identified local population – can tackle all the drivers of poverty by giving participants immediate access to the full range of critical resources simultaneously.

In the context of such programs and with the aim of realising them, ECA can accept and fund some specific actions meeting different and other criteria than those mentioned under titles 1, 3 and 4 of this document, provided that these actions are necessary to contribute to the global success of the program.