

INTERVENTION CRITERIA OF *eu can aid!* (aisbl)

1. TYPE OF SUPPORT

eu can aid! (ECA) grants its financial aid to small target groups for concrete projects and on a lower scale than that at which the main fund providers usually operate.

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 confines 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.

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 last 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.

2.3. References

The applicant should provide independent references to allow ECA to get evidence from reliable organisations of earlier collaboration and experience, ideally from several such organisations known to ECA.

Exceptionally, especially in the case of NGOs in their start-up phase, ECA may confine itself to collecting independent feedback or references to collect solid proof of the experience and reliability of the persons managing the NGO in question.

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

2.4. Capacity of the requestor

The applicant should ideally have done similar projects successfully.

3. GENERAL CRITERIA

Supported projects can be classified in three categories:

- Social
- socio-economic
- income-generating activities.

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.
- 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 take themselves in charge, and involving them in all project life cycles (design, implementation, management)
- have the concerned local population's contribution of about 5% of the total budget for each project (i.e. financial contribution or labour or productive factors' provision as lands, 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
- contribute to sustainable development, in other words it respects the environment or contributes to its protection.
- Be coherent with government's policy,
- A second request from the same applicant, will be accepted only after the first project's conclusion and under the condition of having received the update report

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

4. SPECIFIC CRITERIA

4.1. Income generating activities

Income generating activities must meet the following criteria:

- Recurrent incomes must be greater than recurrent costs;
- be capable to ensure financial sustainability and preferably generate a snowball effect
- existence of a market to sell the products
- possibility of extension without further support
- economically sustainable
- existence of a clear system for managing cash and distributing revenues to beneficiaries
- A proper description of the situation without project and with project implementation must be provided.

As regards construction costs, ECA normally restricts itself to funding the construction of buildings for collective use (e.g. farm buildings for groups of producers, workshops for machinery for collective use, small warehouses, 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 (availability of teachers paid in the long term, etc.)
- supervision quality
- success guaranty (expertise in performing work, infrastructure maintenance)
- existence of pro-forma invoices

4.3. 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 all the costs (quantities, unit price, total cost, fixed cost, recurrent cost). It is also important to present the local populations or each beneficiary expected income and return on investment. To do so, sometimes an in-depth analysis of the local market prices could be appropriate.

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.