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Participatory, Inclusive, and Green Recovery for Local Public Services in the Earthquake-Affected Region (PACE)



Grant Programme for Public-oriented and Business-Promoting Recovery Measures

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Call for Proposals for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Business Support Organisations (BSOs) in Türkiye

December 2025

Deadline for submission of complete application package:
16 January 2026, 18:00 hours (Türkiye time)

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NOTICE ON PROCESSING THE QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

Note 1

Most questions received concerning this Call for Proposals can be answered by carefully reading the Call for Proposals Guidelines.

Note 2

To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the Contracting Authority **cannot give a prior opinion** on the eligibility of individual lead applicants, co-applicants, associates, a project, or specific activities (see **Section 12 – Additional Information** of the Guidelines).

Please further note that replies provided to questions are given solely in relation to the specific question raised and do not constitute confirmation that all eligibility criteria are fulfilled. Applicants remain responsible for ensuring compliance with the eligibility requirements set out in **Chapter 3 – Eligibility Criteria** of the Guidelines (Eligibility of Applicants, Eligibility of the Project, and Eligibility of Costs).

In case of any inconsistency or contradiction between this FAQ document and the Call for Proposals Guidelines, the Guidelines shall prevail.

In case of any inconsistency between language versions, the English version shall be considered the valid one.



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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – Call for Proposals

PART A – General Information, Deadlines, Process & Submission

A1. What is the application deadline and cut-off time for submissions?

Answer: The application deadline is 16 January 2026 at 18:00 (Türkiye time). Applications submitted after this deadline will not be considered.

A2. Which documents must be submitted as part of the application package?

Answer: There is one single submission deadline under this Call for Proposals. Applicants must submit the complete application package, including all required documents, as specified in Section 5 of the Call for Proposals Guidelines. Partial submissions are not accepted.

A3. Is there an official proposal template, or are the Concept Note and required annexes sufficient for the first submission?

Answer: Applicants must use the templates and submit the documents specified in Section 5 of the Call for Proposals Guidelines. Only the templates and annexes indicated in the Guidelines are accepted.

A4. Will applicants receive an acknowledgement of receipt and a reference number after applying by e-mail?

Answer: Applicants will receive an acknowledgement of receipt by e-mail. A reference number will be assigned internally for administrative and evaluation purposes.

A5. Can an applicant revise and re-submit the application package before the deadline, and if so, which version will be considered final?

Answer: Yes. Applicants may revise and re-submit their application package before the submission deadline. In such cases, only the latest version received before the deadline will be considered for evaluation.

A6. Where can applicants follow the official answers to questions (FAQ/Q&A), and which sources are considered authoritative?

Answer: All official updates, announcements, and published answers to questions related to this Call for Proposals are made available through the official website: <https://siviltoplumsektoru.ab.gov.tr/en/news-announcements/>

Only information published in the Call for Proposals Guidelines and through the official channels indicated above is considered authoritative.



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A7. Is there a limit on the number of applications an organisation can submit or participate in, and does this limit refer to applications submitted or grants awarded?

Answer: A lead applicant may submit a maximum of two (2) project proposals, in line with the Call for Proposals Guidelines. However, only one application per organisation may be awarded under this Call for Proposals. Please refer to Section 3.1.5 of CfP Guidelines for more information.

A8. How many projects will be funded under each Lot, and what is the total budget allocated per Lot?

Answer: The Call for Proposals Guidelines do not specify a fixed number of projects to be funded per Lot or a specific grant allocation per Lot. Selection will be based on the available budget and the quality of applications received, in accordance with the evaluation and selection procedures set out in the Guidelines. Equal treatment of all eligible applications is ensured.

A8. What is the total size of the fund?

Answer: The grant size is minimum EUR 50,000 to EUR 200,000 per project.

PART B – Eligibility of the applicant

B1. What organisations are considered eligible applicants under this Call for Proposals (CSO / BSO)?

Answer: Eligibility of applicants is defined exclusively in Section 3.1.1 (Applicant – Lead Applicant / Co-applicant) of the Call for Proposals Guidelines.

Applicants are required to carefully review this section, as well as:

- For Lot 1, Footnote 2, which defines what constitutes a Civil Society Organisation (CSO) for the purposes of this Call; and
- For Lot 2, Footnote 6, which defines what constitutes a Business Support Organisation (BSO) for the purposes of this Call.

Eligibility to apply under a specific Lot is determined by both:

- the applicant's classification as a CSO or BSO, and
- the objectives and scope of the proposed project, as defined for each Lot in the Call for Proposals Guidelines

Accordingly:

- CSOs may apply under Lot 1 or Lot 2, provided that the proposed project corresponds to the objectives and scope of the selected Lot and all eligibility requirements are met.
- BSOs may apply only under Lot 2 in line with the objectives and scope of that Lot.

Only organisations that fully meet the eligibility requirements set out in Section 3.1.1, and that fall within the definitions provided in the relevant footnotes, are eligible to apply under this Call for Proposals.



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B2. How should organisations or applicants assess whether they are eligible to apply (including cooperatives, foundations, chambers, technoparks, start-ups, public bodies, and international organisations...etc)?

Answer: Organisations must assess their eligibility solely against the criteria set out in Section 3.1.1 (Eligibility of Applicants) of the Call for Proposals Guidelines, together with the definitions provided in Footnote 2 (CSO) and Footnote 6 (BSO), as applicable.

In practical terms:

- If an organisation meets all eligibility requirements defined in Section 3.1.1 and falls within the definition of a CSO or BSO, it is eligible to apply under the relevant Lot.
- If an organisation does not meet these requirements, it is not eligible to apply, regardless of its legal form, sector, or role (in accordance with Section 3.1.4, Ineligible Applicants).

For clarity about frequently raised legal forms:

- Foundation universities and Bar Associations may be eligible to apply only if they fully meet the eligibility requirements set out in Section 3.1.1 and fall within the applicable definition of a CSO or BSO as provided in Footnotes 2 or 6.
- City Councils are not legal entities that's why they are not eligible as applicants. However, they may participate in projects as associates, in accordance with Section 3.1.3 (Associates) of the Call for Proposals Guidelines.

No exceptions, derogations, or alternative interpretations apply beyond what is explicitly stated in the Call for Proposals Guidelines.

B3. Are public institutions, for-profit entities, or international organisations eligible to apply?

Answer: No. Public institutions, for-profit entities, and international organisations (including their branches or representations) are not eligible applicants. Applicants must explicitly meet all eligibility requirements as defined in Section 3.1.1 of the Call for Proposals Guidelines. Please see Section 3.1.4 for detailed description of "Ineligible Applicants". However, it should be noted that public institutions (development agencies, municipality councils, city councils, mukhtars, municipalities, special provincial administrations, local administrative unions, public institutions and organisations and provincial organisations (ministries and regional/provincial directorate of ministries), schools, universities, research institutions may be included in the projects as associates, in accordance with Section 3.1.3 (Associates)

B4. Is there a minimum registration or operational period required for applicant organisations?

Answer: Yes. Applicant organisations must have been legally registered and operational for at least one (1) year before the launch of the call for proposals (1st of December 2025), as specified in Section 3.1.1 of the Call for Proposals Guidelines. There is no flexibility regarding this requirement.



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B5. What is meant by a sound accounting and financial management system?

Answer: Applicants are expected to have a sound accounting and financial management system that enables them to manage grant funds responsibly and in accordance with the requirements of the Call for Proposals.

Such a system should allow the organisation to:

- properly record and document financial transactions.
- ensure transparency and traceability of expenditures; and
- comply with the financial and reporting obligations set out in the Grant Agreement.

The adequacy of the applicant's accounting and financial management system is assessed based on the information and documents submitted as part of the application package, in line with Section 3.1.1 of the Call for Proposals Guidelines.

PART C – Geographic Eligibility

C1. Activities/applicants from which provinces are eligible under this Call for Proposals?

Answer: The eligible provinces, as 11 earthquake-affected provinces, are those explicitly listed in the Call for Proposals Guidelines, under Section 3.1.1 (Applicant – Lead Applicant / Co-applicant). Only activities implemented in the provinces defined in this section are eligible.

C2. What is the geographic eligibility requirement for the Lead Applicant?

Answer: In accordance with Section 3.1.1 of the Call for Proposals Guidelines, the Lead Applicant must be active in at least one of the 11 earthquake-affected provinces.

C3. How is compliance with the requirement of being active in an eligible province assessed?

Answer: Compliance with the requirement of being active in at least one eligible province is assessed based on the documentation submitted by the applicant as part of the application package, please refer to Sections 3.1.1 and 5 of the Guidelines Call for Proposals. Applicants are responsible for submitting sufficient and relevant documentation demonstrating that they meet this requirement. The assessment is carried out based on the information provided in the application.

C4. Must the Lead Applicant, Co-applicants, Partner Local Authorities, and project activities be located in the same province or district?

Answer: No. The Call for Proposals Guidelines do not require the Lead Applicant, co-applicants, and Partner Local Authorities to be in the same province or district. The Lead Applicant must be active in at least one eligible province, as required under Section 3.1.1 of the Call for Proposals Guidelines.

Project activities may be implemented in one or more eligible provinces, provided that:



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- all implementation locations fall within the eligible geographic scope defined in the Guidelines; and
- The scope of activities is clearly justified, and the results are sustained beyond the project duration.

Partner Local Authorities and Co-applicants may be in different eligible provinces, in line with the project design and objectives and if conditions above are met in project activities.

C5. Is there a limit to the number of co-applicants that may participate in a project?

Answer: Yes. Under this Call for Proposals, only one (1) co-applicant is permitted per project.

C6. Can an organisation headquarter outside the eligible provinces apply as Lead Applicant?

Answer: Yes. An organisation headquartered outside the eligible provinces may apply as Lead Applicant, if it fulfils all geographic eligibility requirements set out in Section 3.1.1 of the Call for Proposals Guidelines, namely that:

- the organisation demonstrates an active presence in at least one eligible province; and
- the project activities are implemented within the eligible provinces, in accordance with the geographic scope defined in the Guidelines.

Compliance with these requirements must be demonstrated through the documentation submitted as part of the application package.

C7. Can a project be implemented in more than one eligible province under a single application?

Answer: Yes. A single project may be implemented in more than one eligible province, provided that all activities are implemented within the eligible geographic scope defined in the Call for Proposals Guidelines.

C8. Can an organisation submit more than one application covering different eligible provinces?

Answer: Organisations may submit a maximum of two (2) project proposals in line with the Call for Proposals Guidelines. However, only one application per organisation may be awarded under this Call for Proposals.

PART D – Lots, Thematic Scope and Project Design

D1. How should applicants select the appropriate Lot for their application?

Answer: Each application must be submitted under one Lot only, in accordance with the Call for Proposals Guidelines.

Selection of the appropriate Lot is determined by both:

- the type of applicant (CSO or BSO), as defined in Section 3.1.1 and the relevant footnotes; and



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- the objectives, thematic scope, and expected results of the proposed project, as defined for each Lot in the Call for Proposals Guidelines

Accordingly:

- Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) may apply under Lot 1 or Lot 2, provided that the proposed project corresponds to the objectives and scope of the selected Lot.
- Business Support Organisations (BSOs) may apply only under Lot 2 in line with the objectives and scope of that Lot.

Applications submitted under a Lot that is not compatible with the applicant type and/or the project objectives are not eligible.

D2. Can a single project include activities that fall under both Lot 1 and Lot 2?

Answer: No. Projects must be clearly aligned with one Lot only. Proposals combining activities that fall under different Lots are not eligible under this Call for Proposals.

D3. Can the same organisation submit applications under both Lots?

Answer: Eligibility to apply under a Lot depends on the type of organisation, as defined in Section 3.1.1 of the Call for Proposals Guidelines.

- Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) may be eligible to apply under Lot 1 and/or Lot 2, provided that the proposed project corresponds to the objectives and scope of the selected Lot.
- Business Support Organisations (BSOs) may apply only under Lot 2 in line with the objectives and scope of that Lot.
- An organisation may submit a maximum of two (2) project proposals as the lead applicant, and this can be done under different Lots as described above. However, only one (1) application per organisation may be awarded.

D4. What types of activities are eligible under the Lots?

Answer: Eligible activities are those that fall within the objectives, priorities, and thematic scope of the selected Lot, as defined in the Call for Proposals Guidelines. Applicants must ensure that all proposed activities directly contribute to the expected results of the selected Lot. Projects focusing exclusively on infrastructure, construction, or equipment procurement are not eligible.

D5. Are participatory, coordination, planning, or environmentally oriented activities eligible?

Answer: Activities are eligible only if they comply with the requirements set out in Section 3.2 (Eligibility of the Project) of the Call for Proposals Guidelines and are directly linked to the objectives and expected results of the selected Lot. Applicants are responsible for demonstrating that the project meets the eligibility requirements defined in Section 3.2.



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D6. Can the grant under the PACE programme be used for basin protection plans of dams that provide drinking and domestic water?

Answer: Projects must comply with the requirements set out in Section 3.2 (Eligibility of the Project) of the Call for Proposals Guidelines. Projects related to infrastructure works, including dams and related infrastructure construction, are not eligible unless explicitly permitted under the Call for Proposals Guidelines. However, planning-oriented proposals for infrastructure construction is eligible.

PART E – Partnerships, Co-applicants and Associates

E1. Can Local Authorities apply as Lead Applicants under this Call for Proposals?

Answer: No. Local Authorities are not eligible to apply as Lead Applicants under this Call for Proposals, as set out in the Call for Proposals Guidelines.

E2. Is a partnership with a Local Authority required?

Answer: Yes. Partnership requirements, including the role of Local Authorities, are defined in the Call for Proposals Guidelines (Section 3.1.2). Applicants must comply with the partnership requirements applicable to the selected Lot, as set out in the Guidelines.

E3. Can a municipality apply alone, without a Civil Society Organisation (CSO) or Business Support Organisation (BSO)?

Answer: No. Municipalities and other Local Authorities are not eligible to apply alone as applicants under this Call for Proposals. Applications must be submitted by eligible applicants in accordance with the Call for Proposals Guidelines.

E4. Can a Local Authority participate as a Co-applicant?

Answer: No. Local Authorities may participate in a project only in the roles permitted by the Call for Proposals Guidelines (as partner local authority or associate). Applicants are required to consult the relevant sections of the Guidelines to determine the eligible form of participation.

E5. Which entities may participate as partner local authorities or associates?

Answer: The eligibility, roles, and conditions for participation of partner local authority and associates are defined in Section 3.1.2 (Partner Local Authority) and Section 3.1.3 (Associate) of the Call for Proposals Guidelines. Applicants are required to ensure that all partner local authorities and associates comply with the requirements set out in the respective sections of the Guidelines.



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E6. Can partner local authorities or co-applicants be in provinces other than the project implementation province?

Answer: Yes, provided that the partnership arrangements comply with the requirements set out in the Call for Proposals Guidelines and that the project is implemented within the eligible geographic scope.

E7. Is a signed partnership or protocol document required at the application stage?

Answer: Yes, a signed partnership document must be submitted as part of the application package, in accordance with the requirements specified in Section 3.1.2 and 5.

E8. Is a Municipal Council decision required at the time of application?

Answer: No. A Municipal Council decision is not required at the application stage as explicitly stated in Annex 5 (Partnership Agreement Template).

E9. Can associates participate voluntarily, and are they required to sign a document?

Answer: Yes, associates may participate in a project on a voluntary basis, in accordance with Section 3.1.2 (Associates) of the Call for Proposals Guidelines.

Associates:

- do not receive grant funding.
- do not have contractual obligations under the Grant Agreement; and
- are required to sign the Annex 5 – Partnership Agreement.

Where applicable, associates must be identified in the application and may be required to provide a declaration or confirmation of their involvement, in line with the requirements set out in Section 5 (Application documents) of the Call for Proposals Guidelines and the relevant application templates.

PART F – Staffing, Profiles and Personnel Costs

F1. Must project staff be identified at the application stage, and when can recruitment take place?

Answer: At the application stage, job titles / functions (positions) must be identified in the budget. Staff members do not need to be recruited at the application stage and may be recruited after the Grant Agreement is signed.

F2. Can one individual perform more than one role within the project?

Answer: Yes, if roles are clearly defined, justified, and reflected in the budget. However, functions related to financial management and procurement must be adequately segregated, in line with sound financial management and procurement requirements.



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F3. Can existing staff of the applicant organisation be charged to the project?

Answer: Yes. Personnel costs for existing staff are eligible, provided that they are directly related to the project, properly budgeted under the Staff budget line.

F4. Are personnel costs for external experts or consultants eligible?

Answer: Yes, if they are budgeted under the appropriate budget line (Staff for integrated consultants or External Services)

F5. Are staff employed by public institutions or public universities eligible to receive remuneration under the project?

Answer: Personnel costs are eligible only if they comply with the eligibility of costs and contractual conditions set out in the Call for Proposals Guidelines, the Grant Agreement, and Annex 3 Budget guidelines.

In this context:

- Staff employed by public institutions or public universities may participate in project activities, however, they may not receive parallel or additional salary payments from the project for the same period of employment.
- Staff employed by private (foundation) universities may be engaged as project staff, provided that:
 - The personnel costs are directly related to the project and properly budgeted; and
 - No double payment is paid for the same period, i.e. the individual does not receive two salary payments in parallel for the same working time.

In all cases, personnel costs must be justified, verifiable, and compliant with the applicable financial and contractual provisions.

PART G – Budget, Taxes, Eligible Costs

G1. What are the main rules governing the project budget and eligible costs?

Answer: Project budgets must comply with the eligibility of costs and budget structure requirements set out in the Call for Proposals Guidelines and Annex 3 (budget guidelines). Only costs that are eligible, reasonable, necessary for the project, and incurred in accordance with the Grant Agreement are accepted.

G2. Is this grant tax-exempt?

Answer: No. This grant does not provide tax exemption.



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G3. Are costs for equipment, services, and supplies eligible, and how must they be procured?

Answer: Such costs are eligible only if they are directly related to the implementation of the project, comply with the eligibility of costs provisions. Non-compliance with procurement requirements may result in the related expenditures being ineligible. All grant recipients will receive an onboarding by GIZ on how to handle the financial and procurement process in the project.

G4. What support will be provided to grant recipients regarding financial reporting and procurement?

Answer: Grant recipients will undergo mandatory financial and procurement training provided within the framework of the grant scheme. This training will cover financial management and reporting requirements, and procurement rules and procedures applicable. Grant recipients are therefore not expected to master all technical requirements at the application stage but must comply with the applicable rules during project implementation.

G5. Can the project site or land be rented, and is there a minimum rental period?

Answer: Rental costs are eligible only if they comply with the eligibility of costs requirements and are directly related to the implementation of the project. The Call for Proposals Guidelines do not specify a minimum rental period.

G6. Is the upgrading or improvement of an existing online tool or platform an eligible cost?

Answer: Such costs are eligible only if they are directly linked to the objectives and activities of the project and comply with the eligibility of costs requirements.

PART H – Evaluation, Selection, KEP and Contracting

H1. How are applications evaluated and selected under this Call for Proposals?

Answer: Applications are evaluated and selected in accordance with the evaluation and selection procedure set out in the Call for Proposals Guidelines (Section 6). Only applications that meet the eligibility requirements and achieve the required scores are considered for selection.

H2. Does passing the evaluation stages guarantee the award of a grant?

Answer: No. Passing the evaluation stages does not automatically guarantee the award of a grant. Grant award is subject to the successful completion of all applicable checks and procedures set out in the Call for Proposals Guidelines.



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H3. What is the KEP (Eligibility and Commercial Check), and when is it applied?

Answer: The KEP (Eligibility and Commercial Check) is a mandatory check conducted by GIZ after the evaluation stages and before grant award, as set out in the Call for Proposals Guidelines.

H4. When is the Grant Agreement signed and when can project implementation start?

Answer: The Grant Agreement is signed after completion of the evaluation, selection, and KEP procedures. Project implementation is expected to start indicatively around 30 July 2026, subject to the timely completion of all required procedures and signature of the Grant Agreement, in accordance with the Call for Proposals Guidelines.

H5. How and when are applicants informed about the results?

Answer: Applicants are informed of the results of the evaluation and selection process in accordance with the procedures and timelines set out in the Call for Proposals Guidelines (Section 7).

H6. When will the grant be disbursed to successful applicants?

Answer: Grant disbursement is governed by the provisions of the Grant Agreement. Payments are made in accordance with the payment schedule and conditions defined therein, following successful completion of the evaluation, KEP, and contracting procedures.

PART I – Implementation Period, Reporting and Visibility

I1. What is the project implementation period and when does it start?

Answer: The project implementation period is 12 months, as defined in the Call for Proposals Guidelines and the Grant Agreement. Project implementation may start only after the Grant Agreement is signed.

I2. What reporting obligations apply during project implementation?

Answer: Grant recipients are required to submit narrative and financial reports in accordance with Section 8.3 of the Call for Proposals Guidelines and the provisions of the Grant Agreement. Reporting must follow the format, frequency, and deadlines specified therein.

I3. What visibility and communication requirements apply to funded projects?

Answer: Grant recipients will receive comprehensive onboarding and guidance on communication and visibility requirements as part of the grant implementation process.



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14. Can project activities or expenditures take place before the Grant Agreement is signed?

Answer: No. Project activities and expenditures are eligible only if they take place after the Grant Agreement is signed.

PART J – Information Sessions, Materials and Official Communication

J1. Where can applicants access official information, updates, and materials related to the Call for Proposals?

Answer: All official information, updates, announcements, and materials related to this Call for Proposals are published at the following official website: <https://siviltoplumsektoru.ab.gov.tr/en/news-announcements/> Applicants are required to regularly follow this website. Only information published through this official channel is considered authoritative. Applicants are also advised to follow the “YereldeAb” and “siviltoplumsektoru” social media accounts.

J2. Will presentation materials from information sessions be shared?

Answer: Any information session materials, if shared, will be published through the official website: <https://siviltoplumsektoru.ab.gov.tr/en/news-announcements/>

J3. Which institution should applicants contact for information at the local level (e.g. Kahramanmaraş)?

Answer: All official information, updates, and clarifications related to this Call for Proposals are published exclusively through the official channel indicated in the Call for Proposals Guidelines: <https://siviltoplumsektoru.ab.gov.tr/en/news-announcements/>

No local focal points or institutions are designated for enquiries.

PART K – Definitions, Legal Effect and Final Provisions

K1. Which documents are legally binding for this Call for Proposals?

Answer: The Call for Proposals Guidelines, together with their annexes and the Grant Agreement, constitute the legally binding documents for this Call for Proposals.

K2. Does this FAQ amend, replace, or override the Call for Proposals Guidelines?

Answer: No. This FAQ is provided for clarification purposes only and does not amend, replace, or override the Call for Proposals Guidelines or the Grant Agreement. In case of any inconsistency, the provisions of the Call for Proposals Guidelines and the Grant Agreement prevail.



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K3. Can additional clarifications be requested outside the official channels?

Answer: No. Only clarifications published through the official channels indicated in the Call for Proposals Guidelines are considered valid and authoritative.



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