



CALL FOR PROPOSALS JUST/2015/RRAC/AG
Action grants to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia,
homophobia and other forms of intolerance
RIGHTS, EQUALITY AND CITIZENSHIP/JUSTICE PROGRAMME
(2014-2020)

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1. INTRODUCTION

This call for proposals for action grants is based on the 2015 annual work programme¹ of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC Programme).² It aims to co-fund transnational projects, which are in line with the specific objective of the programme, to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance.

Proposals should aim to produce results with EU added value.

Organisations interested in submitting applications are strongly advised to study the **detailed terms and conditions set out in this call for proposals and in the Guide for Action Grants** published together with this call and constituting an integral part of the conditions of the call.

2. PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED

The proposals under this call shall focus on the priorities described below:

- **2.1 Best practices to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance (BEST)**
- **2.2 Training and capacity building for strengthening criminal responses to hate crime and hate speech (TRAI)**
- **2.3 Empowering and supporting victims of hate crime and hate speech (VICT)**

Proposals shall complement the efforts of the EU in the area of preventing and combating racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance. Duplications of already existing initiatives will not be funded. Applicants shall explain and demonstrate how their proposals are aligned with the respective EU policies and with the documents published by the European Commission and referred to under each priority. The degree of relevance to the priorities of the call for proposals will be assessed under the relevance award criterion.

2.1 Best practices to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance (BEST)

2.1.1 Definition

Proposals submitted under this priority should focus on the sharing and exchange of best practices to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, antisemitism, Muslim hatred, intolerance against Christians, homophobia, transphobia and other forms of intolerance, in particular, but not limited to, hate crime and hate speech. Proposals should focus on sharing and exchanging best practices in the following areas:

¹ Commission Implementing Decision of 30.03.2015 concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2015 and the financing for the implementation of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme, [C\(2015\) 1996](#)/ Justice Programme, [C\(2015\) 1997](#).

² [Regulation No 1381/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme for the period 2014-2020, OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 62.](#)

- Countering hate speech, hate crime and other forms of intolerance through preventive measures, and in particular through the development of counter-narratives and other activities aimed at influencing public opinions and fostering tolerance and mutual respect (e.g. educational and training activities, especially for the youth, ethical codes for media and politicians, community-building, awareness raising, etc.). Initiatives tackling the impact of extremist or radicalised behaviours or of populist narratives spreading misconceptions and negative perceptions towards persons belonging to certain national, ethnic or religious groups are of particular interest.
- Enhancing the feeling of security of certain communities or sectors of the population vulnerable to hate speech, hate crimes or generally subject to low levels of tolerance through non-security measures, such as awareness raising initiatives and campaigns, community building, inter-faith dialogue.
- Contributing to a better implementation and application of criminal law provisions on hate crime and hate speech, including online hate speech, in particular as regards tools and practices for recording, investigating and prosecuting instances of hate speech and hate crimes. Activities focussing on the implementation and application of national law provisions transposing Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA are of particular interest.
- Monitoring, collecting data and sharing data on hate crime and hate speech incidents in participating countries, including online hate speech.
- Supporting community leaders and local authorities to fight against racism, xenophobia and other related intolerance through community building, creation of networks, interreligious and intercultural dialogue, initiatives serving the community and boosting self-esteem, creativity and a sense of belonging, breaking of stereotypes and the developing of counter-narratives.
- Alternative non-punitive sanctions and programmes, such as rehabilitation, reintegration, training or coaching programmes targeting offenders (integrative/educational approach).

This call does not aim to fund projects focusing primarily on discrimination, security or education. Dedicated calls for proposals for these areas will be published on the Commission websites.³

2.1.2 Description of the activities to be funded under this priority

Projects should aim at sharing concrete best practices transferable to different legal contexts, that are likely to increase efficient prevention as well as effective responses to racist, xenophobic, homophobic, transphobic or other hate motivated incidents, by means of criminal law and by other means, through mutual learning and cooperation activities. Projects may focus on one or more grounds of discrimination underlying incidents of hate crime or hate speech (national, racial or ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation or

³ http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/open-calls/index_en.htm
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/index_en.htm
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/calls/index_en.htm

gender identity, disability, etc.), as well as on specific categories of victims (for example, people with a migrant background, asylum seekers, youth and children, elderly people, religious minorities, etc.). Initiatives specifically directed at preventing and combatting online hate speech are of particular interest.

Projects on the use of criminal law should involve representatives of law enforcement authorities, prosecutors, and members of the judiciary while projects on prevention should involve actors having an influence on public opinion (such as media, local decision-makers, etc.).

The activities should result in high quality compilations of best practices through material capable of being easily disseminated to all relevant stakeholders and/or in the development of concrete tools, mechanisms, handbooks or other material on the basis of tested models. Wide dissemination of results and concrete recommendations to relevant stakeholders in all participating countries should be foreseen in the proposals.

Projects specifically focussing on training and capacity building should be submitted under priority 2.2 (TRAI), while projects concerning the rights and treatment of victims of hate speech and hate crimes, including reporting mechanisms, should be submitted under priority 2.3 (VICT).

2.2 Training and capacity building for strengthening criminal responses to hate crime and hate speech (TRAI)

2.2.1 Definition

The proposals submitted under this priority should focus on enhancing training and capacity building of national authorities and other relevant stakeholders with a view to strengthening criminal justice responses to hate crime and hate speech. Projects addressing the training and capacity building needs of law enforcement authorities, prosecutors and judges are of particular interest.

2.2.2 Description of the activities to be funded under this priority

The projects should aim at sharing knowledge, building capacity and providing skills to national authorities and other relevant stakeholders with a view to ensuring an adequate and effective enforcement of relevant criminal law provisions existing at national level to combat racist, xenophobic, antisemitic, islamophobic, homophobic, transphobic and other types of hate motivated incidents. Projects contributing to the effective, comprehensive and consistent enforcement and implementation on the ground of national provisions transposing Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA are of particular interest.

Initiatives offering sustainable and high-quality training to law enforcement authorities, prosecutors, and members of the judiciary will be given priority. Such training could be both theoretical and operational and could include training on the relevant criminal law framework; on how to proceed to the identification of the offender, including in case of online hate speech; on how to proactively and effectively inquire on the existence of hate motives of the offence; as well as on how to ensure effective prosecution of the offender under the relevant criminal law provisions.

Projects may focus on one or more grounds of discrimination underlying incidents of hate crime or hate speech (national, racial or ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity, disability, etc.). Initiatives specifically directed at sharing knowledge,

building capacity and providing skills to counter online hate speech are of particular interest.

2.3 Empowering and supporting victims of hate crime and hate speech (VICT)

2.3.1 Definition

Proposals submitted under this priority should contribute to empowering and supporting victims of racist, xenophobic, antisemitic, islamophobic, homophobic, transphobic or other types of hate crime and hate speech, including online hate speech. Proposals should focus on the following areas:

- Raising awareness about the legal framework for combating hate speech and hate crime, and the rights of victims;
- Tackling underreporting of hate motivated incidents by creating and/or supporting efficient and sustainable reporting mechanisms available to victims of hate crime and hate speech, including third party reporting, anonymous or online reporting, establishment of reporting networks; involvement of the national authorities such as prosecution would be highly recommended.
- Ensuring proper recognition and respectful treatment to victims of hate crime and hate speech and addressing their specific needs, including before, during and after criminal proceedings.
- Ensuring effective protection to victims of hate crime and hate speech, following the evaluation of their individual protection needs.
- Ensuring access to victims' support services, including specialised support services responding to specific and individual needs of victims of hate crime and hate speech. The organisation of such support services should take into account the need to cooperate with other relevant actors (at the state or non-governmental level).
- Ensuring the existence of effective avenues for access to justice, compensation and restoration for victims of hate crime and hate speech, including through mediation or other form of restorative justice.

This call does not aim to fund projects dealing with victim's rights in general, or victims of other crimes. A dedicated call for proposals for victims will be published by DG Justice with reference JUST/2015/SPOB/AG/VICT.

2.3.2 Description of the activities to be funded under this priority

Projects should aim at sharing knowledge and best practices and/or developing efficient mechanisms, programmes and tools specifically targeted at empowering and supporting victims of racist, xenophobic, antisemitic, islamophobic, homophobic, transphobic or other types of hate crime and hate speech, including online hate speech, with a specific focus on the areas identified.

Projects may focus on the situation of victims of a specific form of hate speech or hate crime (such as hate speech or hate crimes motivated by national, racial or ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity, disability, etc.). Proposals may, also, focus on a specific category of victims in light of their particular vulnerability to certain

particular forms of hate speech or hate crime (for example, Muslim women, transgender persons, children with disabilities, etc.).

Projects focussing on the recognition, treatment, protection and support of victims of hate crime and hate speech, on addressing their specific needs as well as projects aimed at enhancing access to justice, compensation and restoration for victims of hate crime and hate speech should duly take into account the obligations deriving upon Member States from Directive 2012/29/EU, establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime.⁴ Projects contributing to an effective implementation on the ground of the provisions of this Directive as it concerns victims of hate speech and hate crime are of particular interest.

Projects should avoid assessing the transposition of the Directive's provisions into national laws but should rather focus on how the Directive is applied in practice for victims of hate crime and hate speech (for example: treatment of victims at the police stations and by other persons coming into contact with them, access to information about their rights and about the case, access to specialised support services, rights to protection according to individual needs) stressing concrete actions and examples from real life.

2.4 For all priorities

Priority will be given to projects based on a cooperation of different actors, including non-State actors such as civil society organisations.

Proposals ensuring maximum practical benefits and impacts for the target groups will be more favourably assessed than projects consisting mainly of research and other analytical activities.

Proposals assessing the transposition of the above instruments into national law are not a priority of this call.

Proposals under all priorities must make provisions to document the number of persons/professionals reached, provide anonymised data disaggregated by gender and by age and must describe in their grant application how this will be done.

If a project will involve direct contact with children, the applicant must describe the child protection policy it will adhere to (see 1.15 in *Annex 1 - Project Description and Implementation Form and Annex 8*).

Proposals must make provisions to document the number of children, parents, teachers/educators/guards/care staff reached, provide anonymised data

The following types of activities will not be funded by the Commission:

- activities supporting individual political parties;
- provision of financial support to third parties;
- legal actions before national or international courts regardless of their grounds or objectives.

⁴ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:315:0057:0073:EN:PDF>

2.5. Mainstreaming

Projects funded under this call shall also seek to promote equality between women and men and the rights of the child. Consequently, when relevant, the applicant shall take the necessary steps to ensure that gender equality and child-related issues are taken into account by paying attention to the situation and particular needs of women and men and of children.

Projects funded under this call shall also comply with the prohibition of discrimination based on any of the grounds listed in Article 21 of the Charter, in accordance with and within the limits set by Article 51 of the Charter. Among others the Commission encourages applicants to promote equal employment opportunities for all its staff and team.

This entails that the beneficiary is encouraged to foster an appropriate mix of people, whatever their ethnic origin, religion, age, and ability.

Finally, all projects under this call shall respect and shall be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

While planning their project and preparing their application, applicants should take into account these requirements and demonstrate in their proposal how these requirements will be respected at implementation stage. Beneficiaries will be required to detail in their final activity report the steps and achievements made towards meeting these requirements.

3. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The indicative available budget under this call for proposals is EUR 5 400 000.

The Commission reserves the right not to award all available funds, and/or to redistribute the amounts per priority depending on the projects received and the outcome of the evaluation procedure.

4. EVALUATION PROCEDURE

All applications are subject to an evaluation process involving five sets of criteria.

The evaluators will check whether the application complies with all the formal requirements (admissibility, exclusion and eligibility criteria).

Applications are furthermore subject to the verification of operational and financial capacity (selection criteria), and they will be evaluated on the basis of the award criteria mentioned in the call. For the verification of the selection criteria the evaluators, based on the documents submitted, will check whether the applicant and partners have enough financial, human and operational resources to carry out the activities described in *Annex 1- Project Description and Implementation Form*.

For the evaluation of the award criteria the evaluators will assess the proposal on its merits against the award criteria, giving points to each proposal.

Proposals will be evaluated by an evaluation committee composed of Commission staff. The committee may be assisted by external experts. The submitted proposals will be evaluated solely on the basis of the criteria outlined below. In most cases, admissibility, exclusion and eligibility criteria will be checked first, but the evaluation committee may decide to proceed in a different order or assess different sets of criteria in parallel.

4.1. Admissibility Requirements

To be admissible applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- (a) Applications must be submitted no later than the deadline for submission referred to in section 8.
- (b) Applications must be submitted using the online application tool of Directorate-General Justice (PRIAMOS).
- (c) Applications must be submitted using the standard PRIAMOS Grant Application Form. They must include all the mandatory information and be accompanied by all the compulsory documents and annexes requested under section 7.3 of this call for proposals.

4.2. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, applications must fulfil all of the following criteria. If a grant application is declared ineligible, it will not be considered for further evaluation and a rejection letter to that effect will be sent to the applicant.

4.2.1. Eligibility of the applicant and of the partners

Applicants and partners must comply with the following requirements:

- (a) **Legal status:** Applicants and partners must be legally constituted public or private organisations, or international organisations

Bodies set up by the European Union falling under Article 208 of the Financial Regulations (EU bodies and institutions) are not eligible for funding and cannot submit applications. They can be associated to an application, but their costs will not be co-financed.

Only legally constituted organisations can participate. Natural persons (private individuals) are not allowed to submit applications.

- (b) **Non-profit:** The applicant must be a public entity or a **non-profit organisation**.

Bodies and organisations which are profit-oriented shall have access to grants only as partners.

‘**Non-profit organisation**’ can be

1) a legal entity that is by its legal form non-profit-making; or

2) has a legal or statutory obligation not to distribute profits to its shareholders or individual members. The provision that profits will not be distributed must be clearly stipulated either in the law or in the statutes of the organisation; decisions on (not) distributing profits made by its managing board, associates, stakeholders, members or representatives are not sufficient proof of the non-profit nature.

- (c) **Eligible country:** Applicant and partners must be legally established in an eligible country. This is not applicable for International organisations.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Eligible countries⁵:

- ⇒ all the EU Member States;
- ⇒ Iceland and Liechtenstein.

4.2.2. Eligibility of the application

- (a) The project must be transnational and must be submitted by a partnership of eligible organisations. For the purpose of this call, the proposal must be submitted by organisations (applicant and partner(s)) from at least five different eligible countries as referred to under section 4.2.1 of this call notice. Please note that any associate partners participating in the project are not counted for the purposes of this criterion;
- (b) The EU grant requested cannot be lower than EUR 300 000. There is no upper limit.
- (c) Projects must not have started prior to the date of submission of the grant application.

4.3. Exclusion Criteria

4.3.1. Exclusion from participation

Organisations (i.e. applicant and partners) will be excluded from participating in this call for proposals if they are in any of the following situations:

- (a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (b) they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment of a competent authority of a Member State which has the force of res judicata;
- (c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify including by decisions of the EIB and international organisations;
- (d) they are not in compliance with their obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of Belgium or those of the country where the grant agreement is to be performed;

⁵ If, before the deadline for submission of proposals, other countries (other EEA countries, candidate countries) join the programme, a notification will be placed on the call website informing applicants that organisations from such countries can participate as applicants or partners.

- (e) they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering or any other illegal activity, where such an illegal activity is detrimental to the Union's financial interests;
- (f) they are currently subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 109(1) of Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (Financial Regulation)⁶.

4.3.2. Exclusion from award:

Organisations (i.e. applicant and partners) will not be granted financial assistance if, in the course of the grant award procedure, they:

- (a) are subject to a conflict of interest;
- (b) are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the Commission as a condition of participation in the grant award procedure or fail to supply this information;
- (c) find themselves in one of the situations of exclusion, referred to in section 4.3.1.

Administrative and financial penalties may be imposed on applicants who are guilty of misrepresentation.

4.4. Selection criteria

4.4.1. Financial capacity

Applicants and partners must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period for which the grant is awarded and to participate in its funding. Organisations participating in several projects shall have sufficient financial capacity to implement multiple projects.

For the purpose of demonstrating its financial capacity, the applicant must present its balance sheets and profit and loss accounts for the last two years available.

If the share of a grant requested by an organisation (applicant or partner)⁷ exceeds EUR 750 000, this organisation must submit an audit report produced by an approved external auditor certifying its accounts for the last closed financial year.

The following elements will be taken into account, among others, to assess the applicant's financial capacity:

- The applicant's dependency on EU financing;
- The applicant's deficit of the previous financial years;

⁶ OJ L298, 26.10.2012, p.1.

⁷ See the calculation in the Grant Application Form, section 1.5, column *Value of EU Contribution Expected*.

- The applicant's revenue of the previous financial years;
- The auditor's findings in the audit report (when applicable).

If the Commission considers that the financial capacity is not satisfactory, it may request further guarantees or impose risk mitigation measures (e.g. reduced or no pre-financing, bank guarantee covering the amount of pre-financing payment), or reject the application.

Please note that the financial capacity shall not be verified for public bodies or international organisations.

In case of applications submitted on behalf of a partnership, partners declare on their honour in the partner declaration that they possess financial capacity to implement the project. The Commission reserves the right to request financial documents also from partners.

4.4.2. Operational capacity

The applicant and the partners must have sufficient operational and professional capacities to implement the activities for which co-funding is requested. Organisations participating in several projects shall have sufficient operational capacity to implement multiple projects.

For the purpose of demonstrating its operational capacity, the applicant must present CVs of key staff involved in the project (employed by the applicant and the partners), who must have the necessary education, skills, experience and capacity to carry out the tasks that are assigned to them during the project. The applicant must also provide its annual technical/narrative reports for the last available year. Partner declarations may also be used when assessing this criterion.

Applicants may not be awarded a grant if they fail to demonstrate that they have the capacity, the experience and the expertise necessary for the successful implementation of the proposed activities.

4.5. Award criteria

The award criteria aim to ensure the selection of projects with a high inherent quality, which contribute as much as possible to the priorities of this call in a cost-effective manner. Synergies and complementarities with other Union instruments and programmes shall be sought and overlaps and duplications with existing activities avoided.

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

(a) Relevance to the priorities of the call (30 points):

Relevance of the action and its objectives to the priorities of the call for proposals, as described under section 2 of this call notice, relevance of the issues addressed by the project, contribution of the proposal to the priorities, and complementarity with other Union activities, avoiding duplication with projects funded by other Union programmes. Every proposed action has to be based on a reliable needs assessment.

(b) Quality of the proposed action (25 points):

Quality shall be assessed in terms of the proposed methodology for implementing the activities; the organisation of work, the allocation of resources and the time schedule; the appropriateness of the envisaged activities

The evaluation of the project's quality will also assess the strategy for monitoring the project implementation and the identification of risks and the measures to mitigate them; the proposed evaluation, including measures to assess the success of the activities and the indicators to be used; the identification of ethical issues and the proposed action to address them.

(c) European added value of the project (15 points):

The European added value of the project shall be assessed in the light of criteria such as its contribution to the consistent and coherent implementation of Union law and policies and to wide public awareness about the rights deriving from it, its potential to develop mutual trust among Member States and to improve cross-border cooperation, its transnational impact, its contribution to the elaboration and dissemination of best practices or its potential to create practical tools and solutions that address cross-border or Union-wide challenges.

(d) Expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact (20 points):

How appropriate are the expected results to achieve the objectives of the action⁸? Is there a long-term impact of these results on the target groups and/or the general public? A clear, targeted and appropriate dissemination strategy, which will ensure that the results and/or lessons learnt will reach the target groups and/or the general public? Is sustainability of the activities after the EU funding ensured?

(e) Cost-effectiveness (10 points):

Financial feasibility of the proposed activities by means of a realistic and reasonable budget. Appropriateness of the amount requested in relation to the scale and type of the activities, to the expected results and to the size of the partnership. Appropriateness of management and coordination costs.

As a result of the evaluation carried out against the above award criteria the proposals will be ranked according to the points attained. The list of awarded projects will be established based on the amount of budget available.

Proposals not attaining an overall score of 70 points will not be considered for the award of a grant even in case the available budget is not consumed fully. Proposals not attaining a score of 21 points for the relevance criterion will not be considered for the award of a grant.

Once the evaluation procedure is completed, the Commission will adopt a formal award decision indicating the selected and the rejected proposals and publish it on DG Justice's Website. Please note that the award decision does not represent a legal or financial commitment on the part of the Commission. The award of each grant is subject to the

⁸ To be distinguished from outputs which are produced with the resources allocated to the proposed action, e.g. training courses, conferences, leaflets.

conclusion of a Grant Agreement in writing. Applicants whose applications are rejected will receive a letter from the Commission stating the reasons for the rejection.

After the award decision has been adopted, the Commission will prepare the Grant Agreements for the selected applications (including dialogue with the applicant concerning any necessary technical and financial adjustments).

Experience shows that usually the number of the proposals scoring above the minimum threshold of 70 points exceeds the number of the projects that can be funded from the available budget.

Therefore, the Commission reserves the right to set up a reserve list in addition to the award list. Proposals placed on the reserve list may receive funding should additional funding become available after the adoption of the award decision. This typically happens if an awarded project is cancelled or withdrawn or if grants are reduced during the budget review of awarded projects. In this case the Commission will contact the applicant of the project ranked highest on the reserve list.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

5.1. Number of applications and grants per applicant

Applications for several projects

The applicant may submit more than one application under this call for proposals.

The applicant may be awarded more than one grant under this call for proposals.

An organisation may participate as applicant, partner or as associate partner in several applications.

Several applications for the same project

Only one application will be accepted and evaluated for any given project. If the applicant submits more than one version of the application package or of documents contained therein under the same application number, only the latest version submitted will be taken into consideration for the evaluation. In case there are several applications for the same project with different application numbers, the applicant will be asked to clarify which application shall be evaluated.

An action may receive only one grant from the EU budget.

5.2. Start date and duration

Projects should be scheduled to start after the Grant Agreement is signed. (See section 8 - Timetable). The actual start date of the project will be the date agreed by the Commission during the preparation of the Grant Agreement.

Starting the project before the signature of the Grant Agreement will be accepted only under exceptional circumstances, where the applicant can demonstrate the need to start the project before the Grant Agreement is signed.

A project that has already started before the date the grant application was submitted is not eligible for funding (see section 4.2.2.c).

The initial duration of the projects should not exceed 24 months.

5.3. Financial provisions

The funding under this call is based on the co-financing principle: the grant cannot constitute more than 80% of overall eligible project costs. The beneficiaries should ensure that the outstanding balance is covered from sources other than the EU budget (own resources of beneficiaries, contributions by donors, income generated by the project). The project budget must have revenue and expenditure in balance.

Contributions in kind

Contributions in kind mean the provision of goods or services to a beneficiary(ies) free of charge by a third party. As contributions in kind do not involve any expenditure for a beneficiary(ies) they are not eligible costs.

Contributions in kind may not be treated as co-financing. However, if the description of the project as proposed includes contributions in kind, the contributions have to be made.

Non-profit rule

EU grants may not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit within the framework of the project. Profit shall be defined as a surplus of the receipts over the eligible costs incurred by the beneficiary, when the request is made for payment of the balance. In this respect, where a profit is made, the Commission shall be entitled to recover the percentage of the profit corresponding to the Union contribution to the eligible costs actually incurred by the beneficiary to carry out the project. More details are provided in the Guide for Action Grants.

Sub-contracting and implementing contracts

If the beneficiaries have to conclude contracts with third parties in order to carry out a limited part of the activities, it shall justify this working method in the *Annex I - Project Description and Implementation Form* and duly respect the rules set out in the Guide for Action Grants, in the section on award of contracts. As a general rule, subcontracting shall be limited to 30% of the total eligible costs. If this threshold is exceeded in the budget estimate, the applicant shall provide justification, which shall help the Commission to assess whether the exception can be accepted.

Financial support to third parties

Projects through which the beneficiaries use the budget of the project to award grants to other organisations under their own procedures and authority (Financial support to third parties) cannot be financed under this call for proposals.

Estimated budget

Before signature of a grant agreement, the estimated budget submitted by the applicant is subject to a review. If problems such as arithmetical errors, inaccuracies, unrealistic costs and ineligible costs are identified, the Commission may request clarifications and/or may

impose modifications or reductions to address such mistakes or inaccuracies. It is not possible to increase the grant as a result of these corrections.

It is therefore in the applicant's interest to provide a realistic and cost-effective budget.

If the amount of the grant is lower than the amount requested, it is the responsibility of the beneficiaries to find the additional amount required to cover its co-financing share or to reduce the total cost of the project.

Grant Agreement

Grants awarded shall be governed by a written agreement. The agreement is a standard agreement; its terms and conditions may not be altered and are not subject to negotiation.

In case of projects involving partners, the coordinator will be requested to sign a multi-beneficiary grant agreement, while in case of a project involving only one organisation, the mono-beneficiary grant agreement will be used. More information is available in the Guide for Action Grants.

The Grant agreement templates are published on the webpage of the call for proposals.

VAT

Please note that new rules concerning eligibility of VAT entered into force on 1 January 2013. The change concerns more particularly public entities. Applicants should refer to the Guide for Action Grants for more detailed information.

6. KICK-OFF MEETING & DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

6.1. Kick-off meeting

The Commission intends to organise a one-day "kick-off" meeting in Brussels for successful applicants. The meeting will focus on project management, administrative and financial aspects as well as reporting obligations.

If necessary, applicants should include return travel to Brussels and subsistence costs for up to two representatives in their estimated project budget. A single overnight stay should be sufficient.

The meeting should be attended preferably by the project coordinator and the financial coordinator.

6.2. Dissemination activities

During the project implementation, it could be envisaged that the beneficiaries are invited by the Commission to present their projects or their project results in seminars or conferences or to participate in study visits with other beneficiaries.

The applicants are therefore invited to include in their estimated project budget costs for return travel and subsistence for one overnight stay. Applicants should estimate that one representative of their organisation attends maximum two events of this kind.

7. PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

7.1. Procedure for submission of applications

This call is managed via **PRIAMOS**, an on-line system for the submission of applications.

Applicants first need to register and obtain a login and password to access the system. This should be done as soon as a decision is taken to participate in this call.

Applications must be submitted, in their entirety, through PRIAMOS. No applications (partial or entire) submitted on paper, fax or e-mail will be considered.

Information and guidance on how to register and submit an application via PRIAMOS can be found on the following website:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants/priamos/index_en.htm

The Grant Application Form and its annexes may not be modified after the deadline for submission. The functions allowing the downloading of blank Grant Application Forms and the uploading of completed Application packages will be disabled at the deadline. However, applicants will be able to access the application they submitted at any time after the deadline.

Please note that, although the PRIAMOS system is able to deal with a lot of applications at the same time, it is advisable not to wait until the last moment to register on the system and submit an application. Applicants are advised to verify that their registration details in PRIAMOS are up-to-date. Contact details are uploaded directly into the application form and, in case of a successful application, used when preparing the grant agreement.

No extension of the deadline will be granted. No application will be accepted if the upload of the application package fails due to reasons which are beyond the Commission's control.

7.2. Grant Application Form

The applicant will be able to download the specific **Grant Application Form** mandatory for this call once it has registered in PRIAMOS.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Applicants should select the Grant Application Form that is relevant to the call for proposals under which they want to apply.

The reference in PRIAMOS for this call for proposals is:

JUST/2015/RRAC/AG

In the Grant Application Form, applicants must select the priority their proposal addresses from the drop-down menu.

If an application form is void of data other than that downloaded automatically from the registration details held in PRIAMOS, it shall be considered that no application has been made.

By submitting the Grant Application Form, applicants electronically sign declarations on their honour certifying that they are not in one of the situations referred to in Articles 106(1) and 107 to 109 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the Union, that they fulfil the eligibility criteria and that they have the required the financial and operational capacity to carry out the proposed activities.

By signing the partner declaration, the partners make the same declaration.

7.3. List of required annexes

The mandatory templates for *Annex 1- Project Description and Implementation Form*, *Annex 2 – Budget* and *Annex 3 – Partner/Associate Partner Declaration* will be available in PRIAMOS as attachments to the *Grant Application Form*. No mandatory templates are set for the rest of the Annexes.

The Commission reserves the right not to take into account documents that were not requested. In particular, the Commission will not accept a project description that is not presented on the set template or partly presented in a different document.

All the annexes must be attached to the Grant Application Form. An application is considered complete only if all the necessary annexes have been provided. If no annex is provided, the application will be rejected right away.

ANNEXES	
Annex 1. Project Description and Implementation Form	<p>The applicant must use the <u>mandatory template</u> and complete it in accordance with the instructions given in the Guide for Action Grants.</p> <p>The template must be uploaded in the original Word format and should not be scanned before it is attached to the Grant Application Form.</p>
Annex 2. Budget Form	<p>The applicant must use the <u>mandatory template</u> and complete it in accordance with the instructions given in the Guide for Action Grants.</p> <p>The budget figures contained in the <i>Budget Form</i> must match those indicated in the <i>Grant Application Form</i>.</p> <p>The template must be uploaded in the original Excel format and should not be scanned before it is attached to the Grant Application Form.</p>
Annex 3. Partner/Associate partner declaration	<p>Partners and associate partners must use the <u>mandatory template</u> and complete it in accordance with the instructions given in the Guide for Action Grants.</p> <p>All the sections of the template shall be completed and the form shall be signed and dated by the authorised signatory of the partner</p>

	<p>organisation.</p> <p>The Application package should contain one declaration for each partner indicated in other sections of the Application Package.</p> <p><u>The scanned</u> electronic copy of each of the duly completed, dated and signed declaration(s) must be attached to the Grant Application Form in one document. The filled but unsigned Word version will not be accepted.</p>
<p>Annex 4.</p> <p>Documents showing the legal and fiscal registration of the applicant</p>	<p>The following documents are required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of legal registration of the applicant organisation. • Articles of Association or Statutes of the applicant organisation. • Fiscal registration showing the VAT number of the applicant organisation. <p><u>No</u> mandatory template is imposed.</p> <p>These documents will be used to check the applicant’s legal status and that it is properly constituted under the national law of one of the eligible countries.</p> <p>Only official documents issued by the relevant national authorities (and not self-declarations) are accepted.</p> <p>There is no need to submit translation of documents drafted in an EU official language.</p>
<p>Annex 5.</p> <p>Profit and Loss accounts Balance Sheets</p> <p>(to be submitted by the applicant)</p> <p>+</p> <p>External audit report (if the share of the grant request is above EUR 750.000)</p> <p>(to be submitted, when applicable, by any organisation, applicant or partner)</p>	<p><u>No</u> mandatory template is imposed.</p> <p>The applicant must submit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Profit and Loss account (mandatory) • the Balance Sheet (if available). <p>Profit and loss accounts and balance sheets must be provided for financial years 2014 and 2015, if available, otherwise for 2013 and 2014. Profit and loss accounts have to be submitted even in case the organisation is not obliged to prepare such accounts under the applicable national legislation. These documents will be used to verify the applicant’s financial capacity.</p> <p>In case the applicant was established recently as a legal entity and thus has no closed financial year, please provide any document available that could help establish the financial capacity.</p> <p>If the share of the grant requested by an organisation⁹ (applicant or partner) exceeds EUR 750 000, this organisation must submit an audit report certifying its accounts for the last closed financial year, produced by an approved external auditor. This audit report has to be submitted even in case the organisation is not obliged to prepare such report under the applicable national</p>

⁹ See the calculation in the Grant Application Form, section 1.5, column *Value of EU Contribution Expected*.

	legislation.
Annex 6. Annual Activity Report for the last available year	<p><u>No</u> mandatory template is imposed.</p> <p>The Annual Activity Report shall describe the activities the applicant carried out during 2015. The report should be detailed enough to allow the verification of the organisation’s aims and activities and its operational and professional capacity. If the annual activity report for 2015 has not been approved yet by the responsible body/management entity of the organisation, the applicant shall submit the draft version of the report certified by the legal representative of the organisation. If no such document exists at all, the document should be drafted for the purpose of the application and certified by the legal representative of the organisation.</p> <p>The Annual Activity Report is requested only from the applicant and not from the partners.</p>
Annex 7. Curriculum vitae	<p>The Commission strongly suggests that CVs are presented in the EUROPASS CV format¹⁰; however, organisations are free to submit these CVs in any other format. CVs should preferably be grouped in one file per beneficiary, rather than uploaded individually.</p> <p>The project team should be described and the key staff should be listed in the relevant section of Annex 1.</p> <p>In case no person is recruited for a key job at the stage of application, please provide the description of the profile or job description.</p>

Annexes 4, 5 and 6 are not requested at the stage of application if the applicant is a **public body** (i.e. a body governed by public law, e.g. public authorities at local, regional or national level) or a university.

If the documents requested as Annex 4, 5 or 6 are available on the applicant’s website, a link to the documents can be provided, instead of the documents. The link(s) should be indicated on a separate sheet to be annexed to the Grant Application Form called “Annex [4/5/6]”, as appropriate. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that the links are correct and working. Please note that a general link to the applicant’s website is not sufficient.

Additional information and documents may be requested from applicants and partners.

8. DEADLINE AND TIMETABLE

The **deadline for submitting proposals** via the PRIAMOS system is

18 February 2016, 12:00 (noon) Central European Time

¹⁰ The EUROPASS CV template can be downloaded at:
<http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae>

The indicative timetable for the various stages of the procedure is:

	Stages	Timing
1	Publication of the call	November 2015
2	Deadline for submitting applications	18 February 2016, 12:00 (noon) CET
3	Information to all applicants on the results of the selection procedure	Indicative date: July 2015
4	Signature of grant agreements	Indicative date: Q3 2015

9. CONTACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

The call's website is:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/calls/2015_action_grants/just_2015_rrac_ag_en.htm

Information regarding the electronic submission in PRIAMOS can be found in the Guide for Action Grants and at:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants/priamos/index_en.htm

Questions regarding the call may be sent by e-mail to the following functional email address:

EC-REC-CALLS@ec.europa.eu

To ensure an efficient handling of any enquiry please indicate clearly the reference of this call.

Questions will be answered as soon as possible. **Questions received later than 7 calendar days before the deadline for submitting applications will not be responded to.**

Applicants are advised to consult the call's website regularly. The Commission will publish at this website any additional information relevant to the call, such as responses to frequently asked questions (if appropriate) and the results of the selection procedure.

In accordance with the principle of equal treatment of applicants, the Commission cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, a partner or an action or on the outcome of the call before the official publication of the results.

The Commission may contact the applicant, should a need for clarification or information arise during the evaluation of the proposal. Such contact will be initiated per e-mail via the contact person indicated under section 1.4 of the Grant Application Form, and may request an answer within a short deadline. **Please make sure that the e-mail address in the Grant Application Form is correct and regularly checked.**

10. DATA PROTECTION

The submission of an application under this call for proposals involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data requested are required to evaluate the application in accordance with the specifications of the call for proposals and will be processed solely for that purpose. Details concerning the processing of personal data are available on the privacy statement at:

http://ec.europa.eu/dataprotectionofficer/privacystatement_publicprocurement_en.pdf.

Personal data may be registered in the Early Warning System (EWS) only or both in the EWS and Central Exclusion Database (CED) by the Accounting Officer of the Commission, should the beneficiary be in one of the situations mentioned in:

- Commission Decision 2008/969 of 16.12.2008 on the Early Warning System, or Commission Regulation 2008/1302 of 17.12.2008 on the Central Exclusion Database
- For more information see the Privacy Statement on:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/protecting/protect_en.cfm

11. PUBLICITY BY THE COMMISSION

All information relating to grants awarded in the course of a financial year shall be published on an internet site of the European Union institutions no later than the 30 June of the year following the financial year in which the grants were awarded:
http://ec.europa.eu/budget/fts/index_en.htm

The Commission will publish the following information:

- name of the Beneficiaries;
- address of the Beneficiaries;
- subject of the grant;
- amount awarded.

Upon a reasoned and duly substantiated request by a beneficiary, the publication shall be waived if such disclosure risks threatening the rights and freedoms of individuals concerned as protected by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union or harm the commercial interests of the beneficiary.

12. PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

12.1. Dissemination strategy and communication tools

Adequate communication and active dissemination of results is essential in ensuring the EU added value of the project and its sustainability after the funding has ended. Information-giving and awareness raising are key activities to ensure that other interested parties benefit from the project and can create new opportunities to extend it or develop new partnerships.

The proposal should provide in Annex 1 a clear description of the dissemination and communication activities to be funded, including at least the following elements:

- **Communication needs and objectives:** What are the communication needs and objectives of the project? How can visibility of the project be tailored to the project? What kind of communication strategy will best reflect the specificity of the project?
- **Target groups and multipliers:** What are the target groups? Which stakeholders or other organisations could possibly be supporters and multipliers of the communication activities?
- **Key messages:** Which messages will the activities convey in order to meet the communication objectives? It is essential that the messages do not stigmatise any specific group (for example ethnic minorities). It is also encouraged not to reproduce or spread gender stereotypes.
- **Distribution channels/tools:** Which channels/tools will be used to convey the messages to the target groups and multipliers?

At final report stage, the beneficiary will be required to provide details about how and to whom the results, best practices and findings have been disseminated and how stakeholders and multipliers have been involved in the project.

12.2. Monitoring and evaluation of the activities

A monitoring strategy is to be established for a continued and informed steering of project implementation. The monitoring strategy aims to ensure that the project is implemented as planned, and that potential risks don't materialise or are appropriately addressed. It is therefore also important to identify potential risks and measures to mitigate them when planning the project.

Moreover, every project should provide for an evaluation, ideally by somebody who is not implementing the project. The application should indicate:

- How the project activities, the outputs and the results shall be evaluated, and by whom;
- The list of quantitative and qualitative indicators that will be used to measure the reach and coverage of the project activities and project results;
- What data will be collected, according to what method and at what moments, including feedback from project participants (satisfaction surveys, evaluation forms, etc);
- How findings will be analysed and reported and how they will be used.