



Ministry of
European Integration
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

**#EY
ЗА ТЕБЕ**



EU THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
PRO+

Public Call for Applications for Development of Territorial Strategies

(CFP EUPROPLUS 01-2021)

Guidelines for applicants

Deadline for Submission of Applications: 10 December 2021



Programme is implemented in 99 local self-governments in the regions of Šumadija and Western Serbia and Southern and Eastern Serbia by UNOPS

1. Background

The European Union for Local Development Programme - EU PRO Plus will contribute to more balanced socio-economic development in Serbia by enhancing territorial development management, supporting economic growth, and improving social infrastructure and social cohesion of 99 local self-governments in two regions: Šumadija and Western Serbia and South and Eastern Serbia. The European Union (EU) has allocated 30 million Euros *through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) 2020* to fund the Programme, which will be led by the Ministry of European Integration and implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) over a period of 36 months.

There are three results that the Programme will achieve in targeted municipalities:

- Result 1: Improved development planning and introduction of the Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) concept
- Result 2: Enhanced economic growth
- Result 3: Improved social infrastructure and social cohesion

While building on the momentum created by its three predecessors¹, the Programme also focuses on four cross-cutting aspects: good governance, digitalisation and innovations, environmental and climate change aspects and gender equality. In addition, EU PRO Plus will, through its activities, where relevant and feasible, strive to remedy some of the negative COVID-19 effects.

The direct beneficiaries of the EU PRO Plus are the Ministry of European Integration, 99 local self-governments, local administration structures, regional development agencies, other business support organisations, local SMEs, and civil society organisations (CSOs). The final beneficiaries are the inhabitants of 99 municipalities.

All programme activities will be undertaken in partnership with the Government of Serbia, while respecting the national policies and priorities, in order to ensure national ownership and help develop national capacities. The EU PRO Plus Programme is based on the National Priorities for International Assistance in the Republic of Serbia until 2025 (NAD), crucial for economic and social development and the EU integration process, while particularly contributing to preparation for the fulfilment of the requirements under **Chapter 22 of the EU acquis - Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments**.

2. Justification

A number of new instruments and possibilities for supporting and extending the approach and practice of integrated urban development have been recently introduced.

With the adoption of the **Leipzig Charter on Sustainable Cities in 2007**², an integrated approach to urban development became the focus of overall European development. The Charter has been revised during the German EU Council Presidency in 2020³, and adopted as the **New Leipzig Charter - The transformative power of cities for the common good**. The New Leipzig Charter provides a key policy framework document for sustainable urban development in Europe. The Charter highlights that cities need to establish integrated and sustainable urban development strategies and ensure their implementation for the city as a whole, from its functional areas to its neighbourhoods. The document is strongly aligned with Cohesion Policy and its framework for sustainable urban development. The common principles are useful

¹ EU PROGRES, European PROGRES and EU PRO Programmes

² [Leipzig Charter on Sustainable Cities](#) (2007)

³ The [New Leipzig Charter- The transformative power of cities for the common good](#) (2020)

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/brochures/2020/new-leipzig-charter-the-transformative-power-of-cities-for-the-common-good

references for programming Cohesion Policy (Integrated territorial development and sustainable urban development).

EU Urban Agenda⁴ (2016) encourages an integrated and coordinated approach to the EU's urban dimension, and national policies and legislation. It builds on the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality and focuses on the three pillars of EU policy making and implementation: better regulation, better funding and better knowledge. The EU Urban Agenda encourages integrated urban / territorial development by targeting above and beyond sectoral policies, beyond administrative boundaries - functional urban areas, including small and medium-sized cities. The agenda prioritizes the following topics: air quality, housing, inclusion of migrants and refugees, urban poverty, tasks and skills in local economy, circular economy, digital development, urban mobility, climate change adaptation, energy development, sustainable use of land and nature-based solutions, innovative and responsible public procurement, safety of public spaces, culture and cultural heritage.

In December 2019, the European Commission (EC) launched the **European Green Deal** (EGD)⁵ as its new flagship policy. Its achievement would take Europe to climate neutrality by 2050 and see EU economies producing net zero carbon emissions by that date. The main goals are the following: there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050; economic growth is decoupled from resource use, and no person and no place is left behind. The EGD defines the set of actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, and restore biodiversity and cut pollution. Reaching this target requires action by all sectors of economy, including: 1) investing in environmentally-friendly technologies; 2) supporting industry to innovate; 3) rolling out cleaner, cheaper and healthier forms of private and public transport; 4) decarbonising the energy sector; 5) ensuring buildings are more energy efficient, and 6) working with international partners to improve global environmental standards. In order to help businesses and regions that are most affected, the EU provides financial support and technical assistance through the Just Transition Mechanism in order to mobilise at least €100 billion over the period 2021-27. Recently, the discussion on a "Green Agenda for the Western Balkans"⁶ emerged. The EC is determined to pursue the design and adoption of this policy in the Western Balkans. The proposed policy is centred around five pillars: 1) decarbonisation; 2) circular economy; 3) pollution reduction; 4) sustainable farming and 5) biodiversity.

New EU Cohesion Policy⁷ (2021-27) has five Policy Objectives (PO): PO1) Smarter Europe, through innovation, digitization, economic transformation and support for SMEs; PO2) Green Europe, low carbon, investment in energy transition, renewable energies and combating climate change; PO3) Connected Europe, with strategic transport and digital networks; PO4) A socially responsible Europe, providing a level of social rights and supporting quality employment, education, skills, social inclusion and equal access to health care, and **PO5) Europe closer to citizens, supporting local development strategies and sustainable urban development**. It also has two horizontal objectives: developing administrative capacity and cooperation between regions and across borders. According to EC proposals, Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI), including Community-led Local Development (CLLD) and Sustainable Urban Development (SUD), will be placed under the new policy objective of PO5, "bringing ESIF⁸ closer to citizens". The two European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) objectives will promote integrated development in: 1) urban areas and 2) rural and coastal areas. The ERDF will continue to have a particular focus on sustainable urban development (SUD), with a national commitment of at least 8% (5% by 2020) for integrated territorial development in urban areas. The implementation of ITIs and CLLD will be supported through a new programme of networking and capacity building of urban

⁴ Ec.europa.eu [EU Urban Agenda](#) (2016)

⁵ European Commission [European Green Deal 2019 - 2024](#) (2019)

⁶ europeanwesternbalkans.com [The Green agenda](#) (2020)

⁷ Ec.europa.eu [New EU Cohesion Policy](#) (2021-27)

⁸ European Structural and Investment Funds

authorities, the European Urban Initiative (EUI). Cohesion Policy further supports local development and enables local governments to manage resources.

Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) already has some foundations in Serbia. SUD in the form of developed inner city urban development strategies was already introduced in the Cities of Kragujevac and Užice in 2011 and Kraljevo in 2013, while during 2006 and later revised in 2009, the City of Niš also developed a high-quality urban strategy that meets many of the requirements of SUD objectives.

The **overall objective** of this Call for Applications is to enhance the ability of municipalities to introduce and implement an integrated territorial development approach in accordance with EU territorial development policies.

The **specific objective** of this Call for Applications is to introduce an integrated sustainable approach to development planning and build capacities to implement territorial initiatives through development of territorial strategies.

3. Content of the Technical Assistance

3.1 Description of territorial instruments in relation to the specific objective⁹

The 'umbrella term' for territorial strategy-based interventions supported by Cohesion Policy is 'integrated territorial development'. Integrated territorial investment encompasses territorial instruments including Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) and Community-led Local Development (CLLD) and also the principles and processes involved in sustainable urban development (SUD). The latest proposed instrument - the European Urban Initiative (EUI)¹⁰ is introduced with an aim to strengthen integrated and participatory approaches to sustainable urban development and provide a stronger link to relevant EU policies.

Integrated territorial investment (ITI) makes it possible for EU Member States to combine resources from different European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), different priority axes or different Operational Programmes. They also allow Member States to delegate management tasks to the local level. The role of the Member States is to set a policy framework that invites local actors to express their views, to cooperate, to develop new beliefs, and to build trust.

ITIs provide an effective means of integrating investment priorities, thematic objectives and different funds within a defined territory. Their use encourages the greater involvement of local stakeholders in the rollout of sustainable development strategies and promotes change in local and regional planning culture. In addition, they can play a useful role in establishing closer links between urban areas and their rural hinterlands.

The basic required content of ITIs is defined in the EU's Common Provisions Regulation 2021-27¹¹ :

- a) The geographical area covered by the strategy. Any geographical area with particular territorial features can be the subject of an ITI, ranging from specific urban neighbourhoods with multiple deprivations to the urban, metropolitan, urban-rural, sub-regional, or inter-regional levels.
- b) An analysis of the development needs and the potential of the area, including economic, social and environmental interlinkages.

⁹ This section contains elements of the analysis developed under the EU PPF7 Programme

¹⁰ Ec.europa.eu [EU Urban initiative post 2020](https://ec.europa.eu/eu-urban-initiative-post-2020/) (2019)

¹¹ Common Provisions Regulation 2021/1060, Article 29, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1060>.

- c) A description of an integrated approach to address the identified development needs and the potential of the area. The actions to be implemented through ITI must contribute to the objectives of the relevant priority axes of the participating Operational Programme(s),
- d) A description of the involvement of partners in the preparation and in the implementation of the strategy. The Managing Authority (MA) of the Operational Programme (OP) bears the final responsibility for managing and implementing the operations of an ITI. However, it may designate intermediate bodies (IBs), including local authorities, regional development bodies or non-governmental organisations.

Sustainable Urban Development. The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) supports sustainable urban development through integrated territorial strategies that tackle the economic, environmental, climate, social and demographic challenges of urban areas (Article 9 of the ERDF regulation). Sustainable urban development is predicated on a territorial strategy that covers the agreed urban location. Its prescribed elements are identical to those prescribed for wider strategies governed by ITI:¹² SUD territorial strategies may also contain a list of operations to be supported. The strategies must be drawn up by the relevant local and regional authorities, working in association with national organisations and institutions.

The essential elements of a sustainable urban development (SUD) approach to city renewal and growth are as follows.

- a) Early engagement: a bottom-up process
- b) The governance of sustainable urban development
- c) Defining the geography and scope of sustainable development at the local level
- d) Developing a sustainable urban development strategy
- e) The identification of priority projects and service improvements
- f) Project implementation.

Within the framework of Technical Assistance, the instruments that will be introduced are Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) and Sustainable Urban Development (SUD).

3.2 Description of technical assistance

The direct technical assistance will be provided to the beneficiary cities, municipalities and RDAs for the formulation of Sustainable Urban Development or Integrated Territorial Investment Strategies in line with the EU territorial instruments.

The assistance will include, but not be limited to the following support:

- support the work of the interdisciplinary working groups, established for development of strategies through organisation and facilitation of trainings and workshops for strategy development;
- organization and facilitation of events which include thematic round tables and citizens forums needed for ensuring citizens participation in the strategy development process;
- provision of technical assistance for consolidation of materials and formulation of strategies; and
- designing and printing the developed strategies.

The description of the role and responsibilities of the Applicants and Co-Applicants are given in the Applicant and Co-applicants statements in Annex B and Annex C.

¹² ERDF Regulation 2021/1058, Article 11, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32021R1058>

The support in formulation of ITI and SUD strategies will be done in accordance with the European Union's Cohesion policy and territorial instruments regulatory framework for integrated territorial development.¹³

The additional support as part of the Technical Assistance (TA) will be provided for the establishment of the governance arrangements for the territories covered with territorial strategies. Such capacities structured from the relevant authorities and stakeholders will serve to identify available potential funding sources, to implement, monitor, and evaluate specific territorial strategy.

The Programme plans to support implementation of territorial strategies through a pilot grant scheme with expected value of 10 million Euros, which will be tentatively launched at the later stage of the strategic planning process.

4. Duration

Technical assistance for formulation of territorial strategies for defined territories awarded for assistance within this Call, is planned to be provided to beneficiary local self-governments in a 12 month period starting in January 2022.

5. Visibility

The Applicants must take all steps prescribed in the [EU PRO Plus Communication Guidelines](#)¹⁴ to promote the European Union (EU) financial contribution to the Action.

These activities include but are not limited to clear visual identification of the action at site, partaking in various media activities and events including activities designed to raise the awareness of specific or general audiences of the overall EU support to Serbia. These refer to but are not limited to on-camera and other media interviews, participation in high level events and relevant on-line and in person surveys on Programme related topics. These applicants must comply with the objectives and priorities agreed with the EU PRO Plus Programme and guarantee the visibility of the action and the EU support provided to it.

6. Eligibility Criteria

6.1 Types of entities allowed to participate in the Call

This Call for Applications is geographically restricted to the territories located within the Programme area of responsibility¹⁵, as outlined in Section 1.

To be eligible, a candidate for the Beneficiary should be a Local Self-Government (LSG) with a status of the city (city municipalities are not eligible to apply) and must fulfil eligibility criteria listed in Section 6.3 below.

Partners to the candidate can be Local Self-Governments with the status of the city or the municipality (excluding the city municipalities) and Regional Development Agencies, in accordance with eligibility criteria listed in Section 6.3 below.

The Local Self-Governments can only be applicants or partners in a single application, in accordance with eligibility criteria listed in Section 6.3 below.

¹³ Regulatory framework for ISTD - Regulatory references on Integrated Sustainable Urban Development is available in the Annex G.

¹⁴ Developed in compliance with the European Commission Manual for [Communication and Visibility in EU-financed external actions](#) as well as [Visibility Guidelines for EU funded projects in Serbia](#)

¹⁵ The list of LSGs included in these regions is provided in the Annex F

6.2. Thematic focus

The thematic areas which encapsulate the interventions related to development of SUD strategies are defined as priority areas of interventions in the Strategy of Sustainable Urban Development of the Republic of Serbia until 2030¹⁶, namely:

- 1) brownfield locations and industrial zones
- 2) informal settlements
- 3) inner city urban areas
- 4) areas with concentration of social problems
- 5) areas with environmental issues and
- 6) cultural heritage

The listed priority areas of interventions represent the preliminary thematic framework for all SUD strategies that will be supported under this Call, where each specific strategy will be tailor-made to the specific territorial needs.

Since the subject of an ITI are wider geographical areas with particular territorial features, ranging from specific urban neighbourhoods with multiple deprivations to the urban, metropolitan, urban-rural, sub-regional, or inter-regional levels, beside priority areas of interventions listed above, the thematic objectives of the EU Cohesion Policy should be also taken into account when developing the ITI strategies, in order to ensure alignment with the current EU territorial policies and funding streams relevant for funding integrated projects in wider geographical areas. The preliminary thematic framework for ITI, therefore, considers the following:

Table 1. Preliminary thematic framework for priority actions for SUD and ITI Strategies

Policy	Strategy of Sustainable Urban Development of the Republic of Serbia until 2030	EU Cohesion Policy for 2014-20	Europe 2020 strategy	EU Cohesion Policy for 2021-27

¹⁶ <https://www.mgsi.gov.rs/lat/dokumenti/urbani-razvoj>

<p>Priority areas of intervention and thematic areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Economic development -Urban renewal -Wellbeing -Environment protection and climate change -Governance <p>Spatial dimension - priority areas of intervention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Brownfield locations and industrial zones -Informal settlements -Urban renewal of inner city urban areas -Areas with concentration of social problems -Areas with environmental issues -Cultural heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Strengthening research, technological development and innovation -Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies -Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs -Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy -Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management -Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency -Promoting sustainable transport and improving network infrastructures -Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility -Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination -Investing in education, training and lifelong learning -Improving the efficiency of public administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Competition policy -Health -Culture -Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A more competitive and smarter Europe -A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy -A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility -A more social and inclusive Europe -Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories
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Examples of general thematic areas for the ITI strategy may be: economic and human resources development, environmental protection, improvement of spatial qualities and functions of the city / settlement, improvement of quality of life, improvement of territorial/urban governance system.

6.3 Eligible Applicants

To be assessed as a potential beneficiary of the technical assistance (TA), the applicant shall demonstrate complying with the following criteria:

Applicants applying for TA for the development of Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) strategies need:

- to be one of the LSGs classified as urban area - centre of integration of more than 100,000 inhabitants or urban area - centre of integration of more than 40,000 inhabitants¹⁷, as defined in the system of urban centres under the [Draft Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2035 and the Report on the Strategic Assessment of the Environmental Impact of the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2035](#); and
- do not already have a developed SUD strategy¹⁸.

Applicants applying for TA for the development of Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) strategies need:

- to be one of the LSGs classified as urban centre¹⁹, urban area - centre of integration of more than 100,000 inhabitants or urban area - centre of integration of more than 40,000 inhabitants²⁰ defined in the system of urban centres under [Draft Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2035 and the Report on the Strategic Assessment of the Environmental Impact of the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2035](#);
- to fulfill the requirement of the spatial continuity of the territory²¹;
- to ensure partnership with at least three (3) LSGs; and
- to ensure partnership with the Regional Development Agency (RDA) that covers the related territory.

Note: The Applicant needs to sign a partnership statement with partner LSGs and RDA given in Annex C: Statement of Applicant and Co-applicants.

¹⁷ According to the Draft Spatial Plan, the urban areas classified as centres of integration of more than 100,000 and more than 40,000 inhabitants are: Šabac, Loznica, Valjevo, Novi Pazar, Čačak, Kruševac, Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Užice, Bor, Zaječar, Pirot, Leskovac, Vranje, Prokuplje, Jagodina, Požarevac and Smederevo. Cities of Niš, Priština and Novi Sad are listed under a separate category in the Draft Plan

¹⁸ The cities of Kragujevac, Kraljevo and Užice are not eligible to apply for a SUD strategy

¹⁹ This refers only to the City of Niš, as other cities defined in the Spatial Plan under category Urban centre classified within the category of the urban areas of Novi Sad, Niš and Priština are not in the Programme area of responsibility, [Draft Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2035 and the Report on the Strategic Assessment of the Environmental Impact of the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2035](#)

²⁰ Šabac, Loznica, Valjevo, Novi Pazar, Čačak, Kruševac, Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Užice, Bor, Zaječar, Pirot, Leskovac, Vranje, Prokuplje, Jagodina, Požarevac and Smederevo.

²¹ The single geographical area without detached geographical units

7. Assessment Criteria

7.1. Capacity of the applicant to implement territorial development tools

The whole intervention logic is geared towards reinforcing sustainable urban development support in already capacitated LSGs. Therefore, the applicant shall demonstrate its capacities in the following dimensions:

- 1) existence of internal institutional capacities, by means: existing urban planning capacities under LSGs department, institute or public companies; local economic development offices or other similar capacities; departments/institutions for social, and environmental affairs, etc.
- 2) experience in similar actions - in implementing participatory processes, applying new methods and innovative approaches in urban development and related EU funded projects

The applicant should identify and briefly elaborate under point Point 3.1 of the Application Form the existence of internal institutional capacities, and experience in similar actions, in order to allow assessing the potential capacities for introducing territorial development instruments.

7.2. Socio-economic and spatial characteristics

The integrated territorial strategies are strongly focused on the territorial and spatial dimension and provide an understanding of the linkages between spatial areas, sectors, projects, and environmental, social and economic development, with a focus on clear priorities that address the main challenges of each territory. Therefore, it is important to underline that territorial development tools can only be effectively used if the specific geographical or urban area takes into account socio-economic and spatial characteristics of the designated territory:

i) in the case of urban areas (SUD): industrial/business and commercial zones and brownfield sites; Illegally built and undeveloped peripheral urban zones (urban sprawl) and degradation of rural area; endangered urban structures, urban matrices and central urban zones; parts of an urban settlement with a concentration of social problems – social inclusion and poverty reduction; settlements or parts of settlements adversely affected by environmental protection and climate changes-related issues; spatial entities with cultural and architectural heritage, important milestones in cultural and historical development of urban settlements / clusters of urban settlements²² or

ii) in the case of a larger territory (ITI): common characteristics - important infrastructure corridors, geography, morphology, industrial capacities, endogenous potential; common needs, issues and challenges and common development plans and initiatives.

The applicant should identify and briefly elaborate under Point 3.2 of the Application Form the specific characteristics of the territory, so as to allow understanding the potentials, and for the purpose of defining the preliminary scope and the thematic coverage of the territorial strategy.

7.3 Experience in partnerships (only in case of applying for ITI)

The EU territorial instruments are designed for a place-based approach to development that can assist in unlocking the under-utilised potential contained at local and regional levels. For that purpose, it is of utmost importance to develop governance arrangements with a capacity to

²² In accordance with the priority areas of intervention in the [Strategy of Sustainable Urban Development of the Republic of Serbia until 2030](#)

implement integrated actions in the designated territory and to use various funding streams.

The capacities of applicants should be demonstrated in a way to present previously established relevant partnerships for similar and related initiatives, which might be a foundation for establishing governance arrangements that will ensure the implementation of the territorial strategy.

The applicant should identify and briefly elaborate under point Point 3.3 of the Application Form any relevant partnerships, so as to allow understanding the potentials for the establishment of governance arrangements.

Assessment criteria	maximum points
Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) Strategies	
1. Capacity for implementing territorial development tools	25
1.1. Existing urban planning capacities of the applicant under LSGs department, institute or public company with entrusted affairs for development of urban plans	7
1.2. Existing local economic development offices or other similar capacities	5
1.3. Other relevant departments and institutions - social, and environmental affairs, communal public companies etc.	0-5
1.4. Experience in similar actions - in implementing participatory processes, applying new methods and innovative approaches in urban development, and with relevant EU and international donor' funds	0-8
2. Socio-economic and spatial characteristics	25
2.1. Industrial/business and commercial zones and brownfield sites	0-5
2.2. Illegally built and undeveloped peripheral urban zones (urban sprawl) and degradation of rural area; endangered urban structures, urban matrices and central urban zones	0-5
2.3. Parts of an urban settlement with a concentration of social problems – social inclusion and poverty reduction	0-5
2.4. Settlements or parts of settlements adversely affected by environmental protection- and climate changes-related issues	0-5

2.5. Spatial entities with cultural and architectural heritage, important milestones in cultural and historical development of urban settlements / clusters of urban settlements	0-5
Total score	50*
Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) Strategies	
1. Capacity for implementing territorial development tools	20
1.1. Existing urban planning capacities of the applicant under LSGs department, institute or public company with entrusted affairs for development of urban plans	7
1.2. Local economic development offices or other similar capacities	4
1.3. Other relevant departments and institutions - social, and environmental affairs, communal public companies etc.	0-4
1.4. Experience in similar actions - in implementing participatory processes, applying new methods and innovative approaches in urban development, and with relevant EU and international donor' funds	0-5
2. Common socio-economic and spatial characteristics	50
2.1. Existing or planned important traffic corridors and facilities (transport - highways and fast motorways, railroad or waterway corridors, civil airports)	0-8
2.2. Energy, water, waste: electricity supply, water supply, regional and local waste management infrastructure	0-5
2.3. Specific geography, morphology	0-4
2.4. Existing industrial capacities	0-3
2.5. Endogenous potential of the territory	0-5
2.6. Common needs, issues and challenges (high unemployment rate, youth migration, economically inactive population, tourist potential, environmental protection and climate changes-related issues)	0-5
2.7. Common development potentials, plans and initiatives	0-5
2.8. Human Capital - secondary education, higher education, universities	0-5
2.9. Businesses/entrepreneurship	0-5
2.10. Innovation Capability - innovation ecosystem institutions (territories with Science technological park or research institutes)	0-5

3. Partnerships	30
3.1. Established relevant partnerships in previous period within the proposed territory	0-15
3.2. Established governance arrangements in previous period within the proposed territory	0-15
Total score	100*

**Applications with a score under 35 points for SUD Strategy and under 70 points for ITI Strategy will not be considered for support*

The Programme reserves the right to request clarifications related to the submitted application before the finalization of the award process.

8. Procedure

Step 1 – Submission

The applicant has to submit the following application forms in English language:

- Application Form (Annex A)
 - Statement of Applicant (Annex B) - *(applies to applicants for SUD strategy)*
 - Statement of Applicant and Co-Applicant (Annex C) - *(applies to applicants for ITI strategy)*
 - Application checklist (Annex D)
- Applications sent by any other means (e.g., by fax or by post or by hand delivery) or delivered to other emails different from the ones stated in CFP will be rejected. Hand-written applications will not be accepted.
 - Applications must have the reference number of the Call (CFP EUPROPLUS 01-2021) and name of the applicant in the subject of the e-mail.
 - Applications must be in both PDF format (signed, stamped and scanned) and in the original editable format (i.e. Excel, Word or google docs and sheets). The signed, stamped and scanned versions submitted in PDF must contain exactly the same application documents as the electronic versions as in original editable format. In case of discrepancies, signed, stamped and scanned versions will prevail.
 - Application documents must be filled-in in English language.
 - The total email size of the application should not exceed 15 MB, as that is the maximum allowed email message size by the UNOPS server. If the application is larger than 15 MB, documents should be sent in a series of emails, with each email not exceeding 15 MB size thresholds. Each part of the application should be numbered in the email subject field.
 - Applications must be submitted to the e-mail address below: rsoc.applications@unops.org. Automatic notification of the delivery would follow upon successful submission of the email application. One notification is sent to each sender (for the first sent email only).
 - The deadline for the submission of applications is **10 December 2021**. Any application submitted after the deadline will be rejected.

- Applications must be received before midnight-local time on the closing date of the Call for Applications. Applicants are kindly advised to submit the application timely, as late deliveries due to slow internet connection or other network/hardware/software related problems may lead to disqualification of the application. Only applications received by UNOPS mail server before the deadline would be accepted.
- Requests for clarification should be submitted to the e-mail address below: rsoc.cfp.clarifications@unops.org by **01 December 2021**, the latest. UNOPS reserves the right to request the original versions of submitted documents from applicants where/when original documentation is required by the Evaluation Team.

Step 2 – Confirmation of the eligibility

The applications that do not fulfil eligibility criteria will not be evaluated. Concerned applicants will be informed after completion of the assessment process.

Step 3 – Assessment of the applications

The applications meeting the eligibility criteria will be evaluated and ranked using the criteria referenced in Section 7 of this document.

Step 4 – Notification of the Programme’s decision

The applicants will be informed in writing of the Programme’s decision concerning their application and, if rejected, the reasons for the negative decision.

Step 5 – Implementation and Conditions for implementation after the Programme’s decision to award technical assistance

Following the decision to award technical assistance, the Beneficiary(ies) will be offered to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). By signing the application form (Annex A), the applicants agree, if awarded for technical assistance, to accept the contractual conditions of the standard MoU.

If awarded for technical assistance, the applicant will become a Beneficiary and act as the main interlocutor of the Programme. The partner LSGs and RDAs shall become co-beneficiaries. The applicant (Beneficiary) shall represent and act on behalf of any other co-beneficiaries and coordinate implementation of the Action.

9. Indicative Timeframe

Activity	Timeframe/ Deadline
Publishing the Call for Applications	12 October 2021
Implementation of the Info Sessions for the Call	25 October - 28 November 2021
Open Consultation Day	29 or 30 November 2021
Deadline for Submission of the Requests for clarification	01 December 2021

Deadline for issuing the answers to received Requests for clarification	6 December 2021
Deadline for Submission of the Applications	10 December 2021
Evaluation of the Applications	December 2021
Information on the Evaluation Results	December 2021
Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)	January 2022

This indicative timetable may be updated by the Programme during the procedure. In such cases, the updated timetable will be published on the EU PRO Plus website <https://euproplus.org.rs/>

10. List of Annexes

Documents to be completed

- Annex A: Application Form
- Annex B: Statement of Applicant (*applies to applicants for SUD strategy*)
- Annex C: Statement of Applicant and Co-applicants (*applies to applicants for ITI strategy*)
- Annex D: Application checklist

Important documents for information

- Annex E: UNOPS Memorandum of Understanding Template (not to be filled)
- Annex F: List of EU PRO Plus LSGs
- Annex G: EU ISTD regulatory framework