



Public Call for Applications for Development of Territorial Strategies CFP EUPROPLUS 01-2021

Frequently Asked Questions with Answers

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This document serves as a record of clarifications provided to interested parties related to the Public Call for Application Applications for Development of Territorial Strategies (CFP EUPROPLUS 01-2021) in response to their inquiries received through phone calls and during EU PRO Plus info sessions related to the Call, as well as clarifications provided in writing in response to the emails received through channels defined by the Call. The answers to received questions are summarised in this document.

I Eligibility Criteria

Q1. Can the applicants for the development of territorial strategies be only local self-governments with the status of a city, or local self-governments with the status of a municipality may also submit an application?

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

The local self-governments with the status of a municipality can participate as partners of applicants who are applying for development of Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) strategies in accordance with the criteria defined under the Section 6.3 of Public Call.

Q2. When applying for support in developing an ITI strategy, should at least three (3) partners be involved? Is there a limit in the maximum number of LSGs to be involved in an application for support in developmemnt of an ITI strategy?

To be assessed as potential beneficiaries of the technical assistance (TA) for support in development of ITI strategies, the applicants need to fulfill all eligibility criteria defined under the Section 6.3 of the Public Call:

- to be one of the LSGs classified as urban centre, urban area - centre of integration of more than 100,000 inhabitants or urban area - centre of integration of more than 40,000 inhabitants 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 territory;
- to ensure partnership with at least three (3) Local self- governments (LSGs); and
- to ensure partnership with the Regional Development Agency (RDA) that covers the related territory.

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 of the Public Call.

There is no limit in the maximum number of LSGs who can participate as co-applicants, but according to the eligibility criteria the requirement of the spatial continuity of the territory has to be fulfilled.

Q3. Can the City of Valjevo apply for the strategy for integrated territorial investments (ITI) and in partnership with which regional development agency?

According to the Public Call criteria (Section 6.3) a partnership with a regional development agency is required for application for support in development of ITI strategy. Taking into consideration that there is no regional development agency that covers its territory, the city of Valjevo may participate only if it enters into a partnership with other local self-governments on whose territory accredited regional development agencies operate which would be included in the development of the strategy.

Q4. Is there a limit on the number of applications in which regional development agencies can participate as partners?

There is no limit in the number of applications in which regional development agencies can participate as partners. The limit on the number of applications applies only to local self-governments.

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

In accordance with the Public Call criteria (Section 6.3) Regional development Agencies must be partners in the applications submitted by local self-governments applying for the development of Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) strategies to those local self governments that are their founders or if they are responsible for the territory that is a subject of the strategy.

Q5. Is a partnership with a regional development agency necessary for applying for support in developing SUD strategies? Can the regional agency be involved in the process of drafting the SUD strategy even though it was not involved as a partner in the application?

The partnership with a regional development agency is not necessary for applying for support in developing SUD strategies.

Regional Development Agency that covers the related territory, may be involved in the process of SUD strategy development as one of the stakeholders. The regional development agencies are encouraged to be involved in the management mechanism / arrangement for the implementation of the strategy that will be formed during the strategy development process.

To be assessed as a potential beneficiaries of the technical assistance (TA) for support in development of SUD strategies, the applicants need to fulfill all eligibility criteria defined under the Sections 6.3 of the Public Call:

- 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 inhabitants, 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 strategy.

II Application form and application preparation

Q6. Is it necessary to define priority projects during preparation of the application?

The applicant does not need to define priority projects during the preparation of the application. The applicant should identify and briefly elaborate under Point 3.2 of the Application Form the specific characteristics of the territory as explained in the Call under the Section 7.3., so as to allow understanding the potentials, and for the purpose of defining the preliminary scope and the thematic coverage of the territorial strategy.

Q7. Under point 3.3 in the application form it is necessary to describe previously established partnerships. Which partnership does this condition refer to, between an applicant and co-applicants or it also includes established partnerships among co-applicant?

The applicant should briefly elaborate under point Point 3.3 of the Application Form any relevant partnerships established within the proposed territory for the implementation of similar or related initiatives in the previous period, which might be a foundation for establishing governance arrangements that will ensure the implementation of the territorial strategy.

It refers to partnerships between the applicant and the partner, as well as partnerships between the partners.

Q8. Is it necessary for the municipal or city assembly to verify the partnership decision before submitting the application?

It is not necessary for the municipal or city assembly to verify the partnership statement in order to participate in the Public Call.

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

- Application Form (Annex A) - completed and enclosed in the original editable Word/Google docs format and in scanned PDF format, signed and stamped by the authorized person;
- Statement of Applicant (Annex B) - completed, signed and stamped by the authorized person of the applicant and enclosed in scanned PDF format - *applies to applicants for SUD strategy*;
- Statement of Applicant and Co-Applicants (Annex C) - completed, signed and stamped by the authorized person of the Applicant and Co-Applicants and enclosed in scanned PDF format - *applies to applicants for ITI strategy*;
- Application checklist (Annex D), completed and enclosed.

III Process of strategies development

Q9. Who makes the decision on establishing the interdisciplinary working group in the case of development of SUD strategy and who in case of development of ITI strategy?

In the case of development of a SUD strategy, the decision on establishing the interdisciplinary working group is made by the Mayor. In the case of the development of an ITI strategy, the establishment of the working group is defined within the partnership agreement for the development of ITI strategies signed by the applicant and all partners, which defines the role and obligations of all partners involved in the development of the strategy.

- Q10. Taking into consideration that local self-governments whose applications will be approved for the technical assistance on territorial strategies will be required to develop a thematic map with mapped priority projects in the Geographic Information System (GIS), will there be a standardized model for the development of thematic maps for all local governments?**

For these needs, the Programme will define a standardized model for the development of a thematic map of territorial strategy and priority projects, with appropriate attributes, in order to enable a standardized presentation and consolidation of spatial data on territorial strategies and projects at the level of the Republic of Serbia.

- Q11. Should meetings of working groups, thematic round tables and citizens forums be organised in only one LSG or on the territory of each of the LSGs involved in the development of ITI strategy?**

It is recommended that working group meetings, thematic round tables and citizen forums during the implementation of the strategy development process be organised both in the local self-government that is the applicant and in the territory of each local government involved in the ITI strategy development process.

- Q12. Should the procedure of public hearing on the draft territorial strategy be conducted only by the local self-governments that submit the application for support in development of ITI strategy or by all partner local self-governments?**

The procedure of public hearing on the draft territorial strategy should be conducted by the local self-government that submitted the application for support in development of ITI strategy and all partner local self-governments.

IV General

- Q13. Most municipalities are currently working on development plans. What is the connection between territorial strategies and the Law on the Planning System? What is the difference between territorial strategies and development plans in methodological terms? What is the legal basis for development of territorial strategies?**

The development plan is a basic planning document at the level of local self-government and according to the Law on Planning System (Article 5) belongs to development planning documents, while territorial strategies fall into the category of public policy documents, as subnational strategies in accordance with Article 12 of the Law on Planning System. These documents are complementary and must be harmonised with Article 23 of the Law on Planning System.

In methodological terms, there are significant differences. The time horizon is different, i.e. the period for which strategies are developed. Territorial strategies are, as a rule,

longer-term documents, primarily due to the complexity of the topics they deal with, which require a much longer period of time to resolve. Territorial strategies are prepared to the level of measures, with a possible list of priority projects, and do not envisage the definition of the list of projects, nor the development of an action plan. The essential difference between these documents is that territorial strategies contain a spatial dimension and priority areas of intervention, which define different solutions in relation to traditional strategic plans.

The legal basis for the development of territorial strategies is the Law on Planning System, Article 12; Law on Local Self-Government, Article 13 and the Strategy of Sustainable Urban Development of the Republic of Serbia until 2030. (Chapter 7.2).

Q14. What are the benefits of LSGs participating as co-applicants in the implementation of the ITI strategy?

The benefits that local governments can have as partners are primarily the solution of common complex problems that transcend the administrative boundaries of local governments, as well as the implementation of development initiatives and projects that are of interest to local governments participating in the partnership.