

Questions from the Webinar (25.2.2020) on the 2020 Call for Proposals

Is Helsinki time really GMT+3?

The application deadline was accidentally listed in the summer time zone. Helsinki is currently in the GMT+2 time zone. Due to our error on this, we will keep the application portal open until 13:00 GMT+3. However, please do not wait until the last minute to submit your application!

Can projects focus on either productive use or circular economy, or should they address both themes?

Proposed projects need to be aligned with the general theme of the call and address some aspect of either productive use or circular economy. Projects do not need to address both parts of the theme.

Can one company submit two applications for different projects?

A company can only submit one application as Lead Applicant. The company may be included as a partner in more than one application, but participation in multiple proposals must be feasible and justified.

Must the applicant be registered in one of the 15 target countries or can it be registered abroad (Europe, US, etc.)? Is there preference as to whether the Lead Applicant is a local or international company?

The Lead Applicant can be based and registered in any country. All projects must be implemented in one (or more) of the 15 EEP Africa countries and need to demonstrate credible local engagement. See the [Application Guidelines](#) for further guidance on what constitutes local engagement.

Are there any restrictions in terms of company size?

Companies of any size are eligible to apply, however, please note that EEP Africa aims to support early stage business models. All applicants must demonstrate sufficient capacity to manage and implement the project, as well as some form of innovation and additionality of EEP Africa funding.

Are NGOs eligible to be the Lead Applicant?

Yes, NGOs are eligible as Lead Applicant if they have a business model.

Are universities allowed to be lead applicants? Are registered entities within a University, such as engagement institutes and innovation hubs, allowed to be lead applicants?

Universities, including any entities within them, are not eligible to be Lead Applicants but are eligible to be project partners.

Are project partners signatories to the grant?

No, the Lead Applicant has full responsibility for project implementation and funding contract compliance and reporting. It is therefore recommended that the Lead Applicant and the project partner(s) sign a separate contractual agreement for project implementation.

Can the project proposal include multiple technologies, such as mini-grids, cookstoves and water access?

Yes, one project may include multiple technologies. For type of technology in your application, please select hybrid technology or the dominant technology applied in your project. Please describe in your application how the technologies are interlinked.

Is it possible for the project to start before EEP approval or contracting using other funds, and then include these in the project budget once the EEP funds become available?

No, all project costs and co-financing need to be used/provided during the contracted project period.

Do you prefer to finance working capital or no?

We do not have a preference to finance certain costs over others. The budget should reflect the costs needed to implement the proposed project appropriately and based on business targets.

Does the project have to be able to prove 30% co-funds at the time of application or can it be confirmed at a later stage?

Confirmed co-financing at time of your application will strengthen your submission, but it is not an absolute prerequisite. In case co-financing has not been confirmed at the time of application, please detail the steps that you are taking to confirm this financing in your submission. Co-financing will be assessed and verified in more detail during the Full Proposal stage.

Is government funding acceptable as co-financing?

Yes, as long if this in the form of a grant or debt financing. In-kind contributions from any source are not accepted as co-financing.

Are estimates of budget costs adequate at the concept note stage or are you looking for exact costs based on firm quotations from suppliers?

At the concept note stage, we are not asking for a detailed budget. However, we do review the budget in terms of its appropriateness and reasonability so the more accurate your estimates are the better.

Can the financier be an independent entity or does it have to be one of the project partners?

Yes, the financier can be an independent entity.

Can proceeds from Result Based Financing be used for co-financing?

Yes, EEP Africa considers grant financing as eligible co-financing and result based financing can be used as long as the funds are available to cover costs during project implementation.

At this stage, is it acceptable to indicate the mechanism for reducing CO₂ emission without explicitly mentioning numbers?

The best estimate for calculations and the underlying assumptions are expected at this stage. The calculations will be further refined in the Full Proposal stage.

Can you clarify whether Liquefied Petroleum Gas can be considered as clean energy?

EEP Africa does not finance activities that increase use of fossil fuels and/or prolong the technical or economic lifetime of heat and power production using fossil fuels. This includes projects based on LPG technology. Please consult the [NDF Environmental and Social Policy Guidelines](#) for the full exclusion list.

Do you have a pipeline of future calls likely to be issued?

During the past few years EEP Africa has held one competitive call for proposals annually, with applications due around March-April. This schedule is expected to continue. Some calls have had a specific theme, such as gender inclusion.