

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

2001 integrated return programme (IRP) for the return of refugees and displaced persons to Bosnia and Herzegovina

SCR-E/111919/D/G/BA

(2001/C 20/05)

Conditional clause: The present Call for Proposals and the award of Contracts are subject to the financing decision of the European Commission and to the approval by the partner State of the relevant project. In the event that either the European Commission does not deliver its decision, or the partner State does not approve the relevant project, the present Call for Proposals will be cancelled.

mechanism (FRM) for Bosnia and Herzegovina, which will be subject of a separate announcement.

In the framework of the 2001 CARDS return programme, the European Commission is inviting for IRP project proposals in support to 'Housing, associated infrastructure and sustainability measures'.

1. INTRODUCTION

On 5 December 2000, the Council of the European Union adopted Regulation (EC) No 2666/2000 on assistance for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This Regulation provides for Community assistance to support participation of the recipient countries in the stabilisation and association process. Under this so-called CARDS programme (Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation), the EC will notably continue to support the return and reintegration of refugees and displaced persons (DPs) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As in previous years, the programme will be designed to support the priorities of the Reconstruction and Return Task Force (RRTF), in particular:

- support to breakthrough and spontaneous returns,
- consolidation of returns,
- support to regional cross-border returns (from Croatia and FRY to Bosnia and Herzegovina),
- support to the property legislation implementation plan (PLIP),
- sustainability of return.

The above will be achieved notably through an integrated return programme (IRP). This will be complemented by projects funded under the CARDS 2001 flexible reaction

2. THE INTEGRATED RETURN PROGRAMME (IRP)

2.1. Project proposal profile

The aim of the IRP is to: (a) support and consolidate breakthrough and regional returns; (b) support the PLIP; and (c) achieve sustainable returns. Project proposals should include reconstruction of dwellings (preferably using the self-help approach) as well as rehabilitation of related technical infrastructure. Proposals should incorporate a sustainability component, i.e. livelihood measures, job creation activities, support for local capacity building and restoration of civil society.

Implementing organisations should tailor their proposals to meet the particular needs of the **return areas as defined in paragraph 2.2** herebelow and the project design should be developed in close coordination with the regional/local RRTF offices.

2.2. Geographical areas for the integrated return programme

Funding will be made available to projects focusing on specific geographical areas (clusters) based upon the priorities defined by the Reconstruction and Return Task Force (RRTF). The Integrated Return Programme proposals should address the needs in the areas listed below:

Project 1: NORTH-WEST	code: IRP 1-NW
Project 2: TUZLA/NORTH-WEST	code: IRP 2-TN
Project 3: TUZLA	code: IRP 3-TZ
Project 4: CENTRAL BOSNIA	code: IRP 4-CB
Project 5: CENTRAL BOSNIA	code: IRP 5-CB
Project 6: SOUTHERN	code: IRP 6-SO
Project 7: SARAJEVO	code: IRP 7-SA
Project 8: SARAJEVO	code: IRP 8-SA

2.3. Eligibility criteria

- The applicant organisation shall be a non-profit-making organisation (NPO).
- The legal place of registration of the applicant organisation shall be either in one of the EU Member States or CARDS countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) or candidate countries for accession to the European Union.
- The nationality of all staff involved in the project shall be either from one of the EU Member States or CARDS countries or candidate countries for accession to the European Union.
- At least three years of experience in the implementation of complex return projects.

2.4. Submission of project proposals

Applicant organisations may participate in more than one project on the conditions that separate proposals are presented. Their capacities and resources to implement more than one project will be assessed by the EC delegation prior to the awarding of any contracts.

Project proposals will have to be received (faxes and e-mails are not accepted) not later than **15 March 2001, 12.00 a.m. (proposals received after this deadline will not be accepted)** at the following address:

Technical Assistance Unit (TAU)
Contract Service Team,
Union Banka Building, Dubrovacka 6, 2nd floor,
71000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tel. (387-33) 20 47 94/fax (387-33) 45 28 00.

Project proposals will have to be submitted in three separate sealed envelopes (one original and two copies), one marked as 'ORIGINAL' and each one of the two others marked as 'COPY', and bear the following identification:

Project proposal for the CARDS 2001 integrated return programme

Project code: _____ (see paragraph 2.2)

Organisation: _____

2.5. Selection of project proposals

An Evaluation Committee will assess the technical and financial quality of the project proposals and carry out an assessment of the socioeconomic and political impact the operation would achieve.

2.6. Size of the project proposals

The indicative value for the individual IRP projects is **between EUR 1 and 3,5 million.**

2.7. Conditionality

Please note that lack of cooperation of the local authorities or low performance in the implementation of the property legislation might result in a suspension of the EC assistance in the community concerned. Should this be the case, the European Commission will inform implementing organisations in due course.

The Commission reserves the right to reassess its assistance to certain areas in the light of deteriorating security conditions. The advice of the RRTF will be sought to re-evaluate the political/social situation and assess the implications that unforeseen developments may have for the implementation of the CARDS 2001 return programme. This review will be carried out in the course of the evaluation process.

2.8. Schedule of the selection process

2.8.1. Submission of expression of interest

Expressions of Interest will have to be received at the following address:

Technical Assistance Unit (TAU)
Contract Service Team
Union Banka Building, Dubrovacka 6, 2nd
Floor, 71000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tel. (387-33) 20 47 94/fax (387-33) 45 28 00.

Expressions of interest should be in the format given on the European Commission Internet web site at the following address: **http://europa.eu.int/comm/scr/index_en.htm**. The applicant organisation interested in submitting project proposal(s) should clearly specify the project code(s) (see paragraph 2.2).

The call for proposals dossier will be available from **31 January 2001**

In **Sarajevo** at the

Technical Assistance Unit (TAU)
Contract Service Team
Union Banka Building, Dubrovacka 6, 2nd
Floor, 71000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tel. (387-33) 20 47 94/fax (387-33) 45 28 00

2.8.2. *Information meeting*

The Commission gives all applicant organisations the opportunity to attend an information meeting that will be held in Sarajevo on **19 February 2001**. The NPOs which will have expressed their interest before 12.00 on 7 February 2001 will receive an invitation.

Interested organisations will have the opportunity to raise questions about any issues linked to the CARDS 2001 return programme.

2.8.3. *Selection criteria*

All proposals will be assessed according the following criteria:

1. **Formal compliance**

Eligibility, standard format

2. **Technical evaluation**

Beneficiary selection and follow up, reconstruction of dwellings and technical infrastructure, sustainability measures, local capacity building

3. **NPO capacity**

Experience, staffing and organisation, administrative resources, financial capacity

4. **Socio-economic and political impact assessment**

Analysis of the NPO on these issues

Detailed information (including the format for the expression of interest) is available on the European Commission Internet website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/scr/index_en.htm

Amendment to notice of invitation to tender for the refund for the export of milled medium-grain and long-grain A rice to certain third countries

(2001/C 20/06)

(Official Journal of the European Communities C 293 of 14 October 2000)

On page 31, the text of paragraph 2 under heading I 'Subject', is amended as follows:

'2. The total quantity in respect of which there may be fixed a maximum export refund as provided in Article 1(2), of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 584/75 ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 299/95 ⁽⁴⁾, is approximately 30 000 tonnes.'

⁽³⁾ OJ L 61, 7.3.1975, p. 25.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 35, 15.2.1995, p. 8.