

Official Journal of the European Union

C 17



English edition

Information and Notices

Volume 58

20 January 2015

Contents

II *Information*

INFORMATION FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND AGENCIES

European Commission

2015/C 17/01	Initiation of proceedings (Case M.6800 — PRSfM/STIM/GEMA/JV) ⁽¹⁾	1
--------------	---	---

IV *Notices*

NOTICES FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND AGENCIES

Council

2015/C 17/02	Council conclusions on entrepreneurship in education and training	2
--------------	---	---

European Commission

2015/C 17/03	Euro exchange rates	8
--------------	---------------------------	---

NOTICES FROM MEMBER STATES

2015/C 17/04	Extract of a winding-up measure decided under Article 9 of Directive 2001/24/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reorganisation and winding-up of credit institutions	9
--------------	---	---

EN

⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance

V *Announcements*

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

European Commission

2015/C 17/05	Call for proposals — Guidelines — EACEA 03/2015 — EU Aid Volunteers initiative: Technical Assistance for sending organisations — Capacity Building for humanitarian aid of hosting organisations	10
--------------	--	----

PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON COMMERCIAL POLICY

European Commission

2015/C 17/06	Notice concerning a partial reopening of the anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of zeolite A powder originating in Bosnia and Herzegovina	26
--------------	--	----

PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION POLICY

European Commission

2015/C 17/07	Prior notification of a concentration (Case M.7500 — Bain Capital/Ibstock Group) — Candidate case for simplified procedure ⁽¹⁾	29
2015/C 17/08	Prior notification of a concentration (Case M.7429 — Siemens/Dresser-Rand) ⁽¹⁾	30
2015/C 17/09	Prior notification of a concentration (Case M.7495 — APAX/EVRY) — Candidate case for simplified procedure ⁽¹⁾	31

⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance

II

*(Information)*INFORMATION FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES
AND AGENCIES

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Initiation of proceedings**(Case M.6800 — PRSfM/STIM/GEMA/JV)****(Text with EEA relevance)**

(2015/C 17/01)

On 14 January 2015, the Commission decided to initiate proceedings in the abovementioned case after finding that the notified concentration raises serious doubts as to its compatibility with the internal market. The initiation of proceedings opens a second phase investigation with regard to the notified concentration, and is without prejudice to the final decision on the case. The decision is based on Article 6(1)(c) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their observations on the proposed concentration to the Commission.

In order to be fully taken into account in the procedure, observations should reach the Commission not later than 15 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent to the Commission by fax (+32 22964301) or by post, under reference M.6800 — PRSfM/STIM/GEMA/JV, to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').

IV

(Notices)

NOTICES FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND AGENCIES

COUNCIL

Council conclusions on entrepreneurship in education and training

(2015/C 17/02)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING THE POLITICAL BACKGROUND TO THIS ISSUE, AS SET OUT IN THE ANNEX TO THESE CONCLUSIONS, AND IN PARTICULAR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL'S RECENT CALL 'TO PROMOTE A CLIMATE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND JOB CREATION' ⁽¹⁾,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DEFINITION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP USED IN THE 2006 RECOMMENDATION ON KEY COMPETENCES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING ⁽²⁾,

STRESSES THAT:

1. Both entrepreneurship and education are priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.
2. Developing an entrepreneurial mindset can have considerable benefits for citizens in both their professional and private lives.
3. Entrepreneurship in education and training can foster employability, self-employment and active citizenship, as well as outward-looking, adaptable education and training institutions.
4. Entrepreneurship in education and training should aim to provide all learners, regardless of gender, socioeconomic background or special needs, with the skills and competences needed to build an entrepreneurial mindset and capacity.
5. Entrepreneurship in education and training can also provide learners with the skills, competences and support needed for new venture creation, for instance in the form of SMEs and social enterprises.
6. In addition to basic skills such as literacy and numeracy, entrepreneurship requires the gradual development of a range of competences, starting from an early age. These include, for instance, creativity and a sense of initiative; problem solving and critical thinking; decision-making and risk taking; adaptability and perseverance; self-discipline and a sense of responsibility; leadership and teamwork; planning and organisational ability; understanding of the social, economic and cultural context; and language skills and the ability to persuade.
7. Entrepreneurship skills and competences should be addressed at all levels of education and training and, as far as possible, across the curriculum in a manner that enables their continuous development, with attention being paid to the attainment of entrepreneurial learning outcomes.

⁽¹⁾ See doc. EUCO 79/14, page 15, final paragraph.

⁽²⁾ For the purposes of this text, the term 'entrepreneurship' is used within the meaning of 'a sense of initiative and entrepreneurship' as defined in the 2006 recommendation, and refers to 'an individual's ability to turn ideas into action. It includes creativity, innovation and risk-taking, as well as the ability to plan and manage projects in order to achieve objectives. This supports individuals, not only in their everyday lives at home and in society, but also in the workplace in being aware of the context of their work and being able to seize opportunities, and is a foundation for more specific skills and knowledge needed by those establishing or contributing to social or commercial activity. This should include awareness of ethical values and promote good governance.'

8. Education and training institutions should themselves endeavour to be more creative and innovative, in response to a rapidly changing environment driven by technology, globalisation and evolving skills needs. Teachers, trainers and educational leaders should be encouraged to foster entrepreneurial skills, competences and mindsets, while institutions should offer creative and innovative learning environments and actively encourage engagement with the wider community.
9. Partnerships between education and training institutions and businesses, particularly SMEs, can help foster closer cooperation between the world of education and training and the world of work. Businesses and business organisations should therefore be encouraged to support entrepreneurship in education and training, for instance through the provision of physical or virtual platforms designed to promote such partnerships and work-based learning.
10. Knowledge triangle integration between education, research and innovation — such as that supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) — enhances the teaching and learning process, stimulating creative thinking and innovative attitudes and approaches that often result in new venture creation.
11. Education and training activities at master's and doctoral levels, such as those carried out by the EIT's Knowledge and Innovation Communities, also help to promote the development of innovation-related skills, the improvement of managerial and entrepreneurial skills and competences and the mobility of researchers and students.
12. Non-formal and informal learning, as well as voluntary activities, can also make an important contribution to the development of entrepreneurial skills, competences and mindsets.

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL PRACTICE AND WITH DUE REGARD FOR SUBSIDIARITY AND INSTITUTIONAL AUTONOMY, TO:

1. Encourage the development of a coordinated approach to entrepreneurship education throughout the education and training system, including for instance by connecting ministries of education and other relevant ministries, by facilitating the involvement of businesses and entrepreneurs — as well as the non-profit sector — in all levels of planning and implementation (including partnerships between education and training institutions and business), and by encouraging specific evaluation and monitoring.
2. Promote the inclusion of entrepreneurial skills and competences in both initial teacher/trainer education programmes and continuous professional development.
3. Encourage synergies between entrepreneurship education and training and career guidance to support the acquisition of the entrepreneurship key competence and to reflect venture creation as a career opportunity.
4. Promote and support student venture initiatives, for example by encouraging the creation of appropriate learning environments, the provision of sound careers guidance at all levels of education and training and — particularly in the fields of higher education and VET — the availability of mentoring and incubators for aspiring entrepreneurs.
5. Facilitate and stimulate the involvement of entrepreneurs in the learning process, as well as draw on past graduates' experience, for example by inviting entrepreneurs into education and training institutions to discuss their experiences with students, teachers and trainers or by providing opportunities for work-based learning, traineeships and apprenticeships.
6. Make use, where possible, of graduate tracking information when assessing the quality and effectiveness of entrepreneurship education and training.
7. Promote practical entrepreneurial experiences, such as creativity challenges, start-ups, business simulations or entrepreneurial project-based learning, bearing in mind the need to use an age-relevant approach.
8. Note the work done by the Thematic Working Group on Entrepreneurship Education.

With specific regard to higher education, bearing in mind institutional autonomy:

9. Support higher education institutions (HEIs) in their efforts to develop targeted measures for managing institutional change and further organisational development, particularly with regard to promoting a more entrepreneurial and innovative mindset.
10. Promote use of the HEInnovate online tool ⁽¹⁾ as a means to support HEIs in devising effective strategies for developing more entrepreneurial and innovative capabilities, by improving awareness of the issues and challenges raised and providing guidance on how to address these.
11. Bearing in mind the Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training ⁽²⁾, which emphasise that striving for excellent research is fundamental, highlight the role of early stage researchers as agents of knowledge transfer towards the non-academic world, in particular and where appropriate, by stimulating the exposure of PhD candidates to industry and other relevant employment sectors, as well as the acquisition of different transferable skills, including entrepreneurship, through adequate training or practical experience.

With specific regard to schools, VET and adult learning, bearing in mind institutional autonomy:

12. Encourage the availability of services that assist schools and VET and adult learning institutions and providers in finding partners from the world of business and social entrepreneurs.
13. Encourage efforts by VET institutions to support student venture creation through the exchange of good practice and the intensification of links with business and social enterprise.
14. Promote the availability of, and access to, apprenticeship programmes and other work-based learning initiatives which have an entrepreneurial dimension.
15. Encourage adult learning providers, where possible, to integrate entrepreneurship skills and competences into existing provision or by means of specific courses.

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION, ACTING WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE COMPETENCES, TO:

1. Explore — in close collaboration with the 'ET2020' Working Group on Transversal Skills — the feasibility and usefulness of developing a guiding reference framework for the entrepreneurship key competence ⁽³⁾, demonstrating the different elements of the competence and using an approach based on learning outcomes and levels. This would support a coordinated approach between the different levels of education and training, as well as help to take into account non-formal and informal learning outcomes.
2. Facilitate the exchange of ideas and good practices at national and European level — for example via the 'ET2020' Working Group on Transversal Skills — with a view to enhancing entrepreneurship in education and training.
3. Explore the added value of developing a citizen tool at European level for the self-assessment of the entrepreneurship competence, including identifying any similar tools which are currently available.
4. Fully exploit the potential that Erasmus+ offers in supporting entrepreneurship education, for example by encouraging the mainstreaming of education-business cooperation in Knowledge Alliances for higher education and in Sectoral Skills Alliances for VET. In particular, take into account the results of the European policy experimentations initiative concerning practical entrepreneurial experiences.
5. Promote teacher/trainer education in entrepreneurial skills and competences, for example through projects which bring together networks of teachers and trainers and which encourage input from actual entrepreneurs, or through the development of new courses or resources, including through digital and online learning.

⁽¹⁾ <https://heinnovate.eu/intranet/main>

⁽²⁾ As endorsed in the November 2011 Council conclusions on the modernisation of higher education (OJ C 372, 20.12.2011, p. 39, paragraph 10).

⁽³⁾ Within the context of the Key Competences Framework, as set out in the 2006 recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 394, 30.12.2006).

6. In the context of the Youth Guarantee Scheme, explore ways to guide young people towards entrepreneurial activities through relevant training, improving cooperation between education and training institutions and the world of work in order to identify young people who can benefit from the Scheme, promoting entrepreneurial learning for participants in the Scheme and identifying business start-ups as a potential career pathway.
7. Consider how best to use other European resources such as the European Social Fund to support the promotion of entrepreneurship in education and training.
8. Support cooperation between entrepreneurs and education and training institutions with a view to developing innovative educational solutions, for example through competitions and incubators.
9. Support cooperation and exchanges with networks and organisations at regional, national and European level, which can offer experience and expertise in enhancing entrepreneurship in education and training and in developing tools and methodologies designed to promote entrepreneurship as a key competence.
10. Taking into consideration the work done by the Expert Group on Data and Indicators of Entrepreneurial Learning and Competence, and with the appropriate involvement of the Standing Group on Indicators and Benchmarks, further explore the usefulness and possibility of defining indicators on entrepreneurship education in order to broaden the evidence base and help to identify areas of best practice.
11. Explore the potential of developing free and open digital and online tools that strengthen the acquisition of entrepreneurial and innovative skills and competences, and explore cooperation with the open source community to promote free business tools, as well as training, for such tools.

With specific regard to higher education, bearing in mind institutional autonomy:

12. Promote synergies with the research and innovation sector, with a view to encouraging initiatives aimed at developing and broadening entrepreneurial skills and competences.
13. Support the further development, adaptation and dissemination of HEInnovate as a tool for entrepreneurial and innovative HEIs, by taking into account evidence collected through its application in those HEIs which choose to participate, by using the findings of OECD national reviews and by facilitating regular exchanges with Member States and HEI stakeholders.
14. Invite the EIT to explore the potential of the EIT 'certified innovator and entrepreneur' label currently being developed and link this to its overall education agenda, disseminating the results widely in accordance with the EIT outreach agenda, whilst avoiding any additional administrative burden.
15. Exploit, where appropriate, the entrepreneurial potential of higher education, by identifying enabling factors in curricular, extracurricular and institutional terms, by promoting these more widely across HEIs and at other levels of education and by making use of relevant studies on supporting such potential.
16. Take into consideration the role and impact of the University-Business Forum, in particular the recommendation of its Entrepreneurship pillar, with a view to developing innovative approaches and fostering exchanges on entrepreneurship-related topics at the intersection of universities and business.

With specific regard to schools, VET and adult learning, bearing in mind institutional autonomy:

17. Explore the potential of Entrepreneurship360 as a tool to support schools and VET institutions in identifying and acting upon their entrepreneurial strengths and weaknesses.
18. Support teacher/trainer networking and project development in entrepreneurship education, for instance through the e-Twinning and EPAL platforms.
19. Explore the potential of the European Business Forum on Vocational Training, in particular by taking account of its outcomes and recommendations regarding entrepreneurship, as appropriate.

20. Within the European Alliance for Apprenticeships, encourage initiatives to develop and broaden entrepreneurial skills and competences in the context of apprenticeship and other work-based learning programmes.

TAKES NOTE OF THE COMMISSION'S INTENTION TO:

1. Enrich the evidence base on entrepreneurship education through relevant studies, such as the Eurydice thematic report planned for 2015.
2. Report on the outreach and impact of the HEInnovate tool and its methodology by the first half of 2016, and make any relevant recommendations for its further development.

INVITES THE COMMISSION TO:

ensure the necessary internal coordination so that all areas of education and training are involved in the follow-up to these conclusions.

ANNEX

Political background

1. The recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 on key competences for lifelong learning ⁽¹⁾;
2. The Council conclusions of 12 May 2009 on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training ('ET2020') ⁽²⁾;
3. The conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 26 November 2009 on developing the role of education in a fully functioning knowledge triangle ⁽³⁾;
4. The Council conclusions of 16 March 2010 on Europe 2020 ⁽⁴⁾;
5. The Council conclusions on the modernisation of higher education ⁽⁵⁾;
6. The Council recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning ⁽⁶⁾;
7. The Council conclusions of 20 May 2014 on promoting youth entrepreneurship to foster social inclusion of young people ⁽⁷⁾;
8. The Council conclusions of 20 May 2014 on effective teacher education ⁽⁸⁾;
9. The European Council conclusions of 26-27 June 2014, in particular Annex I: *Strategic Agenda for the Union in times of change* ⁽⁹⁾;

and

1. The communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on *Rethinking Education: Investing in skills for better socioeconomic outcomes* ⁽¹⁰⁾, November 2012;
2. The communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the *Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan — Reigniting the entrepreneurial spirit in Europe* ⁽¹¹⁾, January 2013.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 394, 30.12.2006, p. 10.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 119, 28.5.2009, p. 2.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 302, 12.12.2009, p. 3.

⁽⁴⁾ 7586/10.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 372, 20.12.2011, p. 36.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 398, 22.12.2012, p. 1.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ C 183, 14.6.2014, p. 18.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ C 183, 14.6.2014, p. 22.

⁽⁹⁾ EUCO 79/14, p. 15.

⁽¹⁰⁾ 14871/12 + ADD 1 to 8.

⁽¹¹⁾ COM(2012) 795 final.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates ⁽¹⁾

19 January 2015

(2015/C 17/03)

1 euro =

Currency	Exchange rate	Currency	Exchange rate		
USD	US dollar	1,1605	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,3906
JPY	Japanese yen	136,27	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	8,9963
DKK	Danish krone	7,4345	NZD	New Zealand dollar	1,4914
GBP	Pound sterling	0,76640	SGD	Singapore dollar	1,5453
SEK	Swedish krona	9,4076	KRW	South Korean won	1251,03
CHF	Swiss franc	1,0120	ZAR	South African rand	13,5213
ISK	Iceland króna		CNY	Chinese yuan renminbi	7,2188
NOK	Norwegian krone	8,8325	HRK	Croatian kuna	7,6935
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9558	IDR	Indonesian rupiah	14643,19
CZK	Czech koruna	27,881	MYR	Malaysian ringgit	4,1447
HUF	Hungarian forint	318,72	PHP	Philippine peso	51,724
PLN	Polish zloty	4,3164	RUB	Russian rouble	75,0288
RON	Romanian leu	4,5027	THB	Thai baht	37,821
TRY	Turkish lira	2,7149	BRL	Brazilian real	3,0503
AUD	Australian dollar	1,4134	MXN	Mexican peso	16,9590
			INR	Indian rupee	71,6174

⁽¹⁾ Source: reference exchange rate published by the ECB.

NOTICES FROM MEMBER STATES

Extract of a winding-up measure decided under Article 9 of Directive 2001/24/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reorganisation and winding-up of credit institutions

(2015/C 17/04)

Riga District Court on 17 December 2014 has ruled to declare JSC in liquidation OGRES KOMERCBANKA (registration #40003150023) insolvent and appointed administrator Raivo Sjademe.

Credit Institution	JSC in liquidation OGRES KOMERCBANKA registration #40003150023
Date	17 December 2014
Entry into force	17 December 2014
Nature of Decision	Opening of winding-up (insolvency) proceedings Appointment of the administrator
Competent authority	Riga District Court
Supervisory authority	Financial and Capital Market Commission 1 Kungu St. Riga, LV-1050 LATVIJA Tel. +371 7774800
Appointed administrator	Mr Raivo Sjademe 209-1 Brivibas blv. Riga, LV-1039 LATVIJA Tel. +371 67544458 E-mail: ogre@advokatiss.lv

V

(Announcements)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

CALL FOR PROPOSALS**Guidelines — EACEA 03/2015****EU Aid Volunteers initiative:****Technical Assistance for sending organisations****Capacity Building for humanitarian aid of hosting organisations**

(2015/C 17/05)

1. INTRODUCTION — BACKGROUND

The Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps — ‘EU Aid Volunteers’ (hereinafter referred to as ‘the EU Aid Volunteers initiative’) establishes a framework for joint contributions from European volunteers to support and complement humanitarian aid in third countries.

Its objective is to contribute to strengthening the Union’s capacity to provide needs-based humanitarian aid aimed at preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering and maintaining human dignity and to strengthening the capacity and resilience of vulnerable or disaster-affected communities in third countries, particularly by means of disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and by enhancing the link between relief, rehabilitation and development. It also seeks to contribute to increasing and improving the capacity of the Union to provide humanitarian aid through enhancing the coherence and consistency of volunteering across Member States in order to improve opportunities for Union citizens to participate in humanitarian aid activities and operations.

In this framework, the present call for proposals will provide funding through support for actions aimed at strengthening the capacity of prospective hosting organisations to prepare and respond to humanitarian crises. In addition it will provide support for actions aimed at strengthening the technical capacity of prospective sending organisations to participate in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objective of this call is to strengthen the capacities of sending and hosting organisations intending to participate in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative and to ensure compliance with the standards and procedures regarding candidate volunteers and EU Aid Volunteers.

With this call the European Commission expects to achieve the following results:

The capacities of up to 100 sending and hosting organisations are strengthened in the fields of

- Disaster risk management, preparedness and response as well as linking relief, rehabilitation and development;
- Volunteer management according to the standards and procedures for the management of the candidate volunteers and the EU Aid Volunteers;
- Strengthening local volunteering in third countries;
- Capacities to undergo certification including administrative capacity;
- Tools and methods of needs assessment at a local level;

- Building partnerships with a view to develop joint projects in the context of the EU Aid Volunteers initiative.
- Communicating the European Union's humanitarian aid principles agreed in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid and raise awareness levels and visibility of its humanitarian aid.

3. TIMETABLE

	Stages	Date and time or indicative period 1st deadline	Date and time or indicative period 2nd deadline
a)	Publication of the call	21 January 2015	21 January 2015
b)	Deadline for submitting applications	1 April 2015 12 PM Brussels time	1 September 2015 12 PM Brussels time
c)	Evaluation period	May 2015	October 2015
d)	Information to applicants	July 2015	November 2015
e)	Signature of grant agreement	July 2015	December 2015
f)	Starting date of the project action	1 September 2015	1 February 2016

4. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of projects is estimated at EUR 6 948 000.

- For the first round (projects submitted by 1.4.2015) it is foreseen to use 70 % of the available amount for projects (EUR 4 863 600).
- 30 % (EUR 2 084 400) will be available for the second deadline on 1.9.2015.

The maximum grant will be EUR 700 000. Grant requests below EUR 100 000 will not be considered for funding. The Agency expects to fund 20 proposals.

The Agency reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available in either round.

5. ADMISSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applications shall comply with the following requirements:

- they must be sent no later than the deadline for submitting applications referred to in Section 3 of the present call for proposals
- they must be submitted in writing using the electronic application form
- they must be drafted in one of the EU official languages
- applications must be submitted electronically using the official application form and must be accompanied by all the documents referred to on the website where the application form is available.

Failure to comply with these requirements will lead to the non-acceptance of the application for further evaluation.

In order to submit an application, applicants and partners must provide their Participant Identification Code (PIC) in the application form. The PIC can be obtained by registering the organisation in the Unique Registration Facility (URF) hosted in the Education, Audiovisual, Culture, Citizenship and Volunteering Participant Portal. The Unique Registration Facility is a tool shared by other services of the European Commission. If an applicant or partner already has a PIC that has been used for other programmes (for example the Research programmes), the same PIC is valid for the present call for proposals.

The Participant Portal allows applicants and partners, to upload or update the information related to their legal status and attach the requested legal and financial documents.

See Section 14.2 for more information.

6. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications which comply with the following criteria will be subject of an in-depth evaluation.

6.1. Eligible bodies

6.1.1 Applicant

Proposals for both, Technical assistance and Capacity building activities, must be submitted by:

- non-governmental not-for-profit organisations formed in accordance with the law of a Member State and whose headquarters are located within the Union; or
- public law bodies of a civilian character governed by the law of a Member State; or
- the International Federation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Applicants (Applicant — coordinating organisations) must — at the specified deadline for submitting their proposals — have at least five years of experience of activity within the field of humanitarian aid.

Only legal entities established in the following countries are eligible:

- the Member States of the European Union: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom.

In order to assess the applicant's eligibility, the following supporting documents are requested:

- **private entity:** extract from the official journal, copy of articles of association, extract of trade or association register, certificate of liability to VAT (if, as in certain countries, the trade register number and VAT number are identical, only one of these documents is required);
- **public entity:** copy of the resolution or decision establishing the public company, or other official document establishing the public-law entity.

6.1.2 Partners and eligible partnership

The Partner organisations must be:

- non-governmental not-for-profit; or
- public law bodies of a civilian character; or
- the International Federation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

a) Bodies established in the following countries can be partners within *Technical assistance* projects:

- the Member States of the European Union: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom.

Technical assistance projects must involve the applicant and partner organisations from at least three different countries participating in the programme from which:

- At least one partner organisation is active in the field of humanitarian aid as defined in Article 3(d) of Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps ('EU Aid Volunteers Initiative')⁽¹⁾ for at least 5 years.
 - at least one partner must have a minimum of 5 years of experience in volunteer management.
- b) Bodies established in the following countries can be partners within *Capacity building* projects:
- the Member States of the European Union: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom;
 - third countries in which humanitarian aid takes place⁽²⁾. The third countries list is available at: <https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/eu-aid-volunteers/funding/>

Capacity building projects must involve the applicant and partner organisations from at least six different countries from which:

- at least three partners are from third countries;
- all partners from countries participating in the programme must have been active in the field of humanitarian aid for at least 5 years;
- at least two partners from third countries must be active in the field of humanitarian aid;
- at least one partner from countries participating in the programme must have been active in the field of volunteer management for at least 5 years.

Applicants may submit projects for both Technical Assistance and Capacity Building. In this case, applicants shall indicate in their application that they apply for both actions.

For both actions, applicants and partners must submit a mandate to be signed by the persons authorised to enter into legally binding commitments, thereby enabling the applicant to act on behalf of the partners. Applicant and partner organisations will be referred to hereafter as 'the Consortium'.

6.1.3 Associates

Other organisations and entities may be involved in the action as associates. Such associates play a real role in the action (they are for example specialised capacity building and/or technical assistance providers). They have no contractual relationship with the Commission and do not have to meet the eligibility criteria referred to in this section. They may be for example private for profit companies. The associates have to be mentioned in the e-form.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 122, 24.4.2014, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ Humanitarian aid is defined as per Article 3(d) of Regulation (EU) No 375/2014, i.e. activities and operations in third countries intended to provide needs-based emergency assistance aimed at preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering, and maintaining human dignity in the face of man-made crises or natural disasters. It encompasses assistance, relief and protection operations in humanitarian crises or their immediate aftermath, supporting measures to ensure access to people in need and to facilitate the free flow of assistance, as well as actions aimed at reinforcing disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction, and contributing towards strengthening resilience and capacity to cope with, and recover from, crises.

6.2. Eligible activities

Technical assistance and capacity building can include the following dimensions:

- (Internal) organisational development, i.e. capacity building and technical assistance for the proper internal running of the organisation.
- (External) organisational development, i.e. capacity building with regard to how the organisation interacts and engages with other stakeholders.
- other types of capacity building, of a specific technical or thematic nature notably with regards to the technical requirements set by the standards and procedures of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 with a view to certifying prospective sending and hosting organisations; and technical capacities in sectors linked to humanitarian aid.

In terms of methods and tools of capacity building and technical assistance the following interventions can be considered:

- Skills-focused interventions such as training focused on bringing about behaviour change/organisational development.
- Organisational development interventions that can range from team building events or facilitated retreats to build organisational strategy to consultancy packages that include needs assessment, a series of targeted trainings and organisational reviews and assessments, and development, implementation, and evaluation of an organisational strategy.
- System-building interventions bringing together a range of national and/or local stakeholders in humanitarian aid focusing on building capacity for humanitarian aid responses and/or preparedness programmes. They can include needs assessments, coordination and facilitation, training, group exercises, technical support.

Activities supported under this call for both Technical assistance and Capacity building projects may include the following:

- Study/scoping visits/mapping and analysis
- Seminars/workshops/conferences
- Job-shadowing/On the job training
- Exchange visits of staff/Twinning arrangements
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Organisational reviews/assessments
- Coaching and mentoring
- Facilitated retreats/team building
- Training courses/train the trainers
- Distance learning/webinars/Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC)
- Consultancy
- Exchange of good practice/peer learning
- Simulation exercises/response assessments

The themes covered by these activities can include: EU humanitarian aid: functioning and principles; Monitoring and evaluation; Leadership development; Organisational development/strategic planning/change management; Administration/financial management/accounting; improving accountability/governance/participation; Communication/visibility/stakeholder relations; Advocacy; Research/producing evidence; programme and project management; (Local) volunteering development; Funding/fundraising; Networking/partnership and alliance building (including for future EU Aid projects); Standards and procedures of the EU Aid Volunteers Initiative.

For Capacity building projects the following themes can be considered in addition:

Technical capacity building on humanitarian operations focusing on needs assessment methodologies/information management; Disaster risk management; Disaster risk reduction/disaster preparedness; Crisis response (and related sectors); Linking relief, rehabilitation and development; Resilience and climate change adaptation.

For the first deadline of 1.4.2015, both types of projects must start between 1 September 2015 and 31 December 2015, with a minimum duration of 6 months and a maximum duration of 24 months.

For the second deadline of 1.9.2015, both types of projects must start between 1 February 2016 and 31 May 2016, with a minimum duration of 6 months and a maximum duration of 24 months.

Applications for projects scheduled to run for longer or shorter periods than that specified in this call for proposals will not be accepted.

No extension to the eligibility period beyond the maximum duration will be granted.

6.3. Eligible grant requests

Only applications that fulfil the eligibility criteria will be considered for a grant. If an application is deemed ineligible, a letter indicating the reasons will be sent to the applicant

7. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

7.1. Exclusion from participation

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the call for proposals procedure 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 States which has the force of *res judicata*;
- (c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the responsible authorising officer 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 the country of the responsible authorising officer or those of the country where the grant agreement is to be performed;
- (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 illegal activity is detrimental to the Union' financial interests;
- (f) they are currently subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 109(1) of the Financial Regulation.

7.2. Exclusion from award

Applicants will not be granted financial assistance if, in the course of the grant award procedure, they:

- (a) are subject to a conflict of interests;
- (b) are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the Agency 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 the above Section 7.1.

Administrative and financial penalties may be imposed on applicants who are guilty of misrepresentation or are found to have seriously failed to meet their contractual obligations under a previous grant award procedure.

7.3. Supporting documents

Applicants must sign a declaration on their honour certifying that they are not in one of the situations referred to in the above Sections 7.1 and 7.2 by filling in the relevant form and attaching it to the application form accompanying the call for proposals available at <https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/eu-aid-volunteers/funding/>

8. SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants must submit a declaration on their honour, completed and signed, attesting to their status as a legal person and to their financial and operational capacity to complete the proposed activities

8.1. Financial capacity

Applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period during which the action is being carried out or the year for which the grant is awarded and to participate in its funding. The applicants' financial capacity will be assessed on the basis of the following supporting documents to be submitted with the application:

- a declaration on their honour
- the financial statements (including the balance sheet, the profit and loss accounts and the annexes) of the last two financial years for which the accounts have been closed
- financial capacity form provided for in the application form, filled in with the relevant statutory accounting figures, in order to calculate the ratios as detailed in the form.

On the basis of the documents submitted, if the Agency considers that financial capacity is not satisfactory, it may:

- request further information;
- propose a grant agreement without pre-financing;
- propose a grant agreement with a pre-financing paid in instalments;
- propose a grant agreement with a pre-financing covered by a bank guarantee (see Section 11.4 below);
- reject the application.

8.2. Operational capacity

Applicants must have the professional competencies as well as appropriate qualifications necessary to complete the proposed action. In this respect, applicants have to submit a declaration on their honour, and have to fill in the specific part in the application form available on the website.

9. AWARD CRITERIA

Eligible applications will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

Relevance of the project (maximum 30 points):

- The relevance of the proposal to the objectives and the priorities of the call for proposals.
- The extent to which:
 - the objectives are clearly defined, realistic and address issues relevant to the participating organisations and target groups;
 - projects demonstrate that they are based on a thorough needs assessment concerning the overall needs for capacity building addressed by the project;

For Capacity building projects only, a supplementary award criterion is applicable:

- third country project partners are countries:
 - identified as vulnerable or crisis prone in the 2014 GVCA Crisis and Vulnerability Index, or the 2014 the Forgotten Crisis Index, or
 - represent resilience focused countries in implementation of the EU Resilience Action Plan.

The third countries list is available at: <https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/eu-aid-volunteers/funding/>

Quality of the project design and implementation (maximum 30 points):

- The clarity, completeness and quality of the action, including appropriate phases for preparation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and (as appropriate) dissemination;
- The appropriateness and quality of the methodology proposed: Consistency between project objectives and activities proposed; logical links between the identified problems, needs and solutions proposed (e.g. Logical Frame Concept); feasibility of the project within the proposed time frame;
- The existence and relevance of quality control measures to ensure that the project implementation is of high quality, completed in time and on budget;
- Cost effectiveness: the proposed budget is sufficient for proper implementation and the project is designed so as to ensure the best value for money;

Quality and relevance of the partnership and cooperation arrangements (maximum 20 points):

- The extent to which the project involves an appropriate mix of complementary participating organisations with the necessary profiles and experience to successfully deliver all aspects of the project;
- The existence of effective mechanisms for coordination and communication between the participating organisations;

For Technical assistance projects only, a supplementary award criterion is applicable:

- The extent to which the project proposed benefits organisations from countries that joined the EU in 2004 or thereafter or organisations from other countries participating in the programme that are underrepresented in humanitarian aid.

Impact and dissemination (maximum 20 points):

- The quality of measures for evaluating the impact of the project;
- The potential impact of the project on participants and partner organisations, during and after the project lifetime;

- The quality of the dissemination plan: the appropriateness and quality of measures aimed at sharing the outcomes of the project within and outside the participating organisations;
- European dimension:
 - the expected results display the understanding and capacity of the applicant and partners to communicate the Union's humanitarian aid principles agreed in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid and raise awareness levels and visibility of its humanitarian aid.
 - the expected results serve the interest of a large number of countries participating in the programme and could be efficiently reproduced and/or transferred to other participating states, regions or organisations.

Projects scoring less than 60 overall points will not be considered for funding.

All projects, regardless whether they cover capacity building or technical assistance will be ranked according to the number of points they reach.

10. LEGAL COMMITMENTS

In the event of a grant awarded by the Agency, a grant agreement, drawn up in euro and detailing the conditions and level of funding, will be sent to the beneficiary, as well as the procedure in view to formalise the obligations of the parties.

The 2 copies of the original agreement must be signed first by the beneficiary on behalf of the consortium and returned to the Agency immediately. The Agency will sign them last.

Please note that the award of a grant does not establish an entitlement for subsequent years.

11. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

11.1. General Principles

a) Non-cumulative award

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

In no circumstances shall the same costs be financed twice by the Union budget. To ensure this, applicants shall indicate in the application form the sources and amounts of Union funding received or applied for the same action or part of the action or for its functioning during the same financial year as well as any other funding received or applied for the same action.

b) Non-retroactivity

No grant may be awarded retrospectively for actions already completed.

c) Co-financing

Co-financing means that the resources which are necessary to carry out the action may not be entirely provided by the EU grant.

Co-financing of the action may take the form of:

- the beneficiary's own resources,
- income generated by the action,
- financial contributions from third parties.

d) Balanced budget

The estimated budget of the action is to be attached to the application form. It must have revenue and expenditure in balance.

The budget must be drawn up in euros.

Applicants which foresee that costs will not be incurred in euros shall use the exchange rate published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* on the InforEuro website available at: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/inforeuro/inforeuro_en.cfm on the date of the publication of this call for proposals.

e) Implementation contracts/subcontracting

Where the implementation of the action requires the award of procurement contracts, the beneficiary must award the contract to the bid offering best value for money or the lowest price, avoiding conflicts of interests and retain the documentation for the event of an audit.

In the event of procurement exceeding EUR 60 000, the beneficiary must abide by special rules as referred in the grant agreement annexed to the call. Moreover the beneficiary is expected to clearly document the tendering procedure and retain the documentation for the event of an audit.

Entities acting in their capacity of contracting authorities in the meaning of Directive 2004/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on the coordination of procedures for the award of public work contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts⁽¹⁾ or contracting entities in the meaning of Directive 2004/17/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors⁽²⁾ shall abide by the applicable national public procurement rules.

Sub-contracting, i.e. the externalisation of specific tasks or activities which form part of the action as described in the proposal and which cannot be performed by the beneficiary itself must satisfy the conditions applicable to any implementation contract (as specified above) and in addition to them the following conditions:

- it may only cover the implementation of a limited part of the action;
- it must be justified having regard to the nature of the action and what is necessary for its implementation;
- it must be clearly stated in the proposal or prior written authorisation from the Agency must be obtained.

f) Financial support to third parties

The applications may not envisage provision of financial support to third parties.

11.2. Funding form: Budget-based financing

Financial contribution from the EU is EUR 100 000 minimum and cannot exceed EUR 700 000. It is limited to 85 % of the total eligible costs of the action.

Consequently, part of the total eligible expenses entered in the estimated budget must be financed from sources other than the Union grant.

The grant amount may neither exceed the eligible costs nor the amount requested. Amounts are indicated in euros.

Acceptance of an application by the Executive Agency does not constitute an undertaking to award a grant equal to the amount requested by the beneficiary.

11.2.1. Eligible costs

Eligible costs are costs actually incurred by the beneficiary of a grant which meet the following criteria:

- they are incurred during the duration of the action as specified in the grant agreement, with the exception of costs relating to final reports and certificates. The period of eligibility of costs will start as specified in the grant agreement. If a beneficiary can demonstrate the need to start the action before the agreement is signed, expenditure may be authorised before the grant is awarded. Under no circumstances can the eligibility period start before the date of submission of the grant application (see Section 11.1b).

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 134, 30.4.2004, p. 114.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 134, 30.4.2004, p. 1.

- they are indicated in the estimated overall budget of the action;
- they are incurred in connexion with the action which is the subject of the grant and are necessary for the implementation of the action;
- they are identifiable and verifiable, in particular being recorded in the accounting records of the beneficiary and determined according to the applicable accounting standards of the country where the beneficiary is established and according to the usual cost-accounting practices of the beneficiary;
- they comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation;
- they are reasonable, justified, and comply with the requirements of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency.

The beneficiary's internal accounting and auditing procedures must permit direct reconciliation of the costs and revenue declared in respect of the action with the corresponding accounting statements and supporting documents.

a) Eligible direct costs:

The eligible direct costs for the action are those costs which, **with due regard for the conditions of eligibility set out above**, are identifiable as specific costs directly linked to the performance of the action and which can therefore be booked to it directly, such as:

- the cost of personnel working under an employment contract with the applicant or equivalent appointing act and assigned to the action, comprising actual salaries plus social security contributions and other statutory costs included in their remuneration, provided that these costs are in line with the applicant's usual policy on remuneration or, where applicable, its partners. **NB: this cost must be the actual cost incurred by the beneficiary, and staff costs of other organisations are eligible only if paid directly or reimbursed by the beneficiary.** These costs may include additional remuneration, including payments on the basis of supplementary contracts regardless of their nature, provided that it is paid in a consistent manner whenever the same kind of work or expertise is required and independently from the source of funding used;

The corresponding salary costs of personnel of national administrations are eligible to the extent that they relate to the cost of activities which the relevant public authority would not carry out if the project concerned was not undertaken;

- subsistence allowances provided that these costs are in line with the beneficiary's usual practices;
- costs of travel provided that they are in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel;
- costs entailed by other contracts awarded by the beneficiary or its partners for the purposes of carrying out the action, provided that the conditions laid down in grant agreement are met;
- activity costs arising directly from requirements linked to the performance of the action (venue rent, equipment hire, interpretation, publication, production, translation, dissemination and exploitation of results, etc.);
- costs relating to external audits where required in support of requests for payments;
- non-deductible value added tax ("VAT") for all activities which are not activities of the public authorities in the Member States.

b) Eligible indirect costs (overheads)

- a flat-rate amount, equal to 7 % of the eligible direct costs of the action, is eligible under indirect costs, representing the beneficiary's general administrative costs which can be regarded as chargeable to the action.

Indirect costs may not include costs entered under another budget heading.

Applicants' attention is drawn to the fact that in the case of organisations receiving an operating grant, indirect costs are no longer eligible under specific actions.

11.2.2. *Ineligible costs*

The following costs shall not be considered eligible:

- return on capital;
- debt and debt service charges;
- provisions for losses or debts;
- interest owed;
- doubtful debts;
- exchange losses;
- costs of transfer from the Agency charged by the bank of the beneficiary;
- costs declared by the beneficiary and covered by another action receiving a European Union grant. In particular, indirect costs shall not be eligible under a grant for an action awarded to the beneficiary who already receives an operating grant financed from the Union budget during the period in question;
- contributions in kind;
- excessive or reckless expenditure;
- insurance costs for third country participants to Capacity Building activities within Europe, as insurance cover is foreseen within the overall EU Aid Volunteers initiative insurance scheme.

11.2.3. *Calculation of the final grant amount — Supporting documents*

The final amount of the grant to be awarded to the beneficiary is established after completion of the action, upon approval of the request for payment containing the following documents

- a final report providing details of the implementation and results of the action;
- the final financial statement of costs actually incurred.
- The beneficiary is required to submit, in support of the final payment, a 'Report of Factual Findings on the Final Financial Report — Type I' produced by an approved auditor or in case of public bodies, by a competent and independent public officer.

The procedure and the format to be followed by an approved auditor or in case of public bodies, by a competent and independent public officer, are detailed in the following 'Guidance Notes':

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/annex_iii_guidance_notes_audit_type_i_03-2014_en.pdf

The use of the report format set by the 'Guidance Notes' is compulsory.

If the eligible costs actually incurred by the beneficiary are lower than anticipated, the Agency will apply the rate of co-financing stated in the grant agreement to the expenditure actually incurred.

In the event of non-execution or clearly inadequate execution of an activity planned in the application attached to the funding agreement, the final grant will be reduced accordingly.

11.2.4. *Non-profit rule*

EU grants may not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit within the framework of the action of the beneficiary. **Profit shall be defined as a surplus of 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 Agency shall be entitled to recover a percentage of the profit corresponding to the Union contribution to the eligible costs actually incurred by the beneficiary to carry out the action.

11.3. Payment arrangements

A pre-financing payment corresponding to 75 % of the grant amount will be transferred to the beneficiary within 30 days of the date when the last of the two parties signs the agreement, provided all requested guarantees have been received.

The Agency will establish the amount of the final payment to be made to the beneficiary on the basis of the calculation of the final grant amount (see Section 11.2 above). If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, the beneficiary will be required to reimburse the amount paid in excess by the Commission through a recovery order

11.4. Pre-financing guarantee

In the event that the applicant's financial capacity is not satisfactory, a pre-financing guarantee for up to the same amount as the pre-financing may be requested in order to limit the financial risks linked to the pre-financing payment.

The financial guarantee, in euro, shall be provided by an approved bank or financial institution established in one of the Member State of the European Union.

When the beneficiary is established in a third country, the authorising officer responsible may agree that a bank or financial institution established in that third country may provide the guarantee if he considers that the bank or financial institution offers equivalent security and characteristics as those offered by a bank or financial institution established in a Member State. Amounts blocked in bank accounts shall not be accepted as financial guarantees.

The guarantee shall be released as the pre-financing is gradually cleared against interim payments or payments of balances to the beneficiary, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the grant agreement.

This requirement does not apply to:

- public bodies and international organisations under public law established by inter-governmental agreements, specialised agencies created by such organisations,
- the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) or the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

12. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

12.1. By the beneficiaries

Volunteers and partner organisations must raise awareness on the EU Aid Volunteers programme, as an example of European solidarity. They should do so by clearly acknowledging the European Union's contribution at all stages of implementation, notably by:

- Ensuring EU visual identity is included into all materials related to the project with a particular focus on communication and dissemination activities (please refer to <http://www.echo-visibility.eu/standard-visibility/the-eus-humanitarian-aid-visual-identity>). As such, the project shall mention, in all communication in conjunction with activities for which the grant is used, 'this project is co-funded by the European Union for the "EU Aid Volunteers initiative"'. The logo of the European Union, the name and the slogan should be clearly visible in each of the communication/visibility products as to identify the volunteers as part of the EU Aid Volunteers programme and raise awareness about the European dimension of their identity.
- Defining communication and dissemination activities through a common communication plan that is available at the following link: <http://ec.europa.eu/echo/en/what/humanitarian-aid/eu-aid-volunteers> Activities foreseen must include the below components to be shared on an ad hoc basis:
 1. Written/audiovisual products: at least one blog contribution, at least one video, at least one photo story (the quality for the photos shall be maximum to the extent possible and accompanied by a short caption including the name of the person or place highlighted. Whenever feasible, short testimonies of the people photographed should be added). Please note that where the language spoken in the field is other than English, the material should be translated and/or subtitled in English.
 2. Media outreach: Potential interviews/contributions with targeted media selected by Regional Information Officers (RIO) and partners in the field.

3. Social media presence to reinforce awareness on the programme and to communicate the stories of the EU Aid Volunteers to a wider-audience for greater impact. Dissemination strategy should also include the main websites of the partner organisations.

- Regularly sharing all relevant communication products with ECHO, including statistics on the reach of communication activities by the hosting organization and the volunteer
- Each organisation should nominate a contact point specifically handling communication and visibility issues;

If this requirement is not fully complied with, the beneficiary's grant may be reduced in accordance with the provisions of the grant agreement.

In addition to the text and logo relevant to the EU programme or sub-programme, the EC will provide beneficiaries with a disclaimer stating that the EU is not responsible for the views displayed in the publications and/or in conjunction with the activities for which the grant is used.

12.2. By the Agency and/or the Commission

With the exception of scholarships paid to natural persons and other direct support paid to natural persons in most need, all information relating to grants awarded in the course of a financial year shall be published on the 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.

The Agency and/or the Commission will publish the following information:

- name of the beneficiary,
- locality of the beneficiary: address of the beneficiary when the latter is a legal person, region when the beneficiary is a natural person, as defined on NUTS 2 level ⁽¹⁾ if he/she is domiciled within the EU or equivalent if domiciled outside EU,
- the amount awarded,
- nature and purpose of the grant.

Upon a reasoned and duly substantiated request by the 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 beneficiaries.

13. DATA PROTECTION

All personal data (such as names, addresses, CVs, etc.) will be processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the European Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data ⁽²⁾.

Unless marked as optional, the applicant's replies to the questions in the application form are necessary to evaluate and further process the grant application in accordance with the specifications of the call for proposals. Personal data will be processed solely for that purpose by the department or Unit responsible for the Union grant programme concerned (entity acting as data controller). Personal data may be transferred on a need to know basis to third parties involved in the evaluation of applications or in the grant management procedure, without prejudice of transfer to the bodies in charge of monitoring and inspection tasks in accordance with European Union law. In particular, for the purposes of safeguarding the financial interests of the Union, personal data may be transferred to internal audit services, to the European Court of Auditors, to the Financial Irregularities Panel or to the European Anti-Fraud Office and between authorising officers of the Commission and the executive agencies. The applicant has the right of access to, and to rectify, the data concerning him or her. For any question relating to these data, please contact the Controller. Applicants have the right of recourse to the European Data Protection Supervisor at any time. A detailed Privacy statement, including contact information, is available on EACEA's website:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about/documents/calls_gen_conditions/eacea_grants_privacy_statement.pdf

⁽¹⁾ Commission Regulation (EC) No 105/2007 of 1 February 2007 amending the annexes to Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) (OJ L 39, 10.2.2007, p. 1).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1.

Applicants and, if they are legal entities, persons who have powers of representation, decision-making or control over them, are informed that, should they be in one of the situations mentioned in:

- the Commission Decision of 16 December 2008 on the Early Warning System (EWS) for the use of authorising officers of the Commission and the executive agencies (OJ L 344, 20.12.2008, p. 125), or
- Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1302/2008 of 17 December 2008 on the Central Exclusion Database (OJ L 344, 20.12.2008, p. 12) (CED),

their personal details (name, given name if natural person, address, legal form and name and given name of the persons with powers of representation, decision-making or control, if legal person) may be registered in the EWS only or both in the EWS and CED, and communicated to the persons and entities listed in the abovementioned Decision and Regulation, in relation to the award or the execution of a procurement contract or a grant agreement or decision.

14. PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

14.1. Publication

The call for proposals is being published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* and on the internet site of the EACEA Agency at the following address:

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/eu-aid-volunteers/funding_en

14.2. Registration in the Participant Portal

Before submitting an electronic application, applicants and partners will have to register their organisation in the Education, Audiovisual, Culture, Citizenship and Volunteering Participant Portal and receive a Participant Identification Code (PIC). The PIC will be requested in the application form.

The Participant Portal is the tool through which all legal and financial information related to organisations will be managed. Information on how to register can be found in the portal at the following address:

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

The tool also allows applicants to upload different documents related to their organisation. These documents have to be uploaded once and will not be requested again for subsequent applications by the same organisation.

Details on the supporting document that need to be uploaded in the portal can be found at: <http://ec.europa.eu/education/participants/portal/desktop/en/organisations/register.html>

14.3. Submission of the grant application

Proposals must be submitted in accordance with the admissibility requirements and by the deadline set out under Sections 3 and 5.

No modifications to the application are allowed once the deadline for submission has elapsed. However, if there is a need to clarify certain aspects or for the correction of clerical mistakes, the Agency may contact the applicant for this purpose during the evaluation process.

All applicants will be informed in writing about the results of the selection process.

Applicants who wish to complete and submit an electronic application form (eForm) must refer to https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/documents/eforms_en and follow the procedure.

The electronic application form duly completed must be submitted by 12:00 (midday, Brussels time) on 1.4.2015 for the 1st deadline and on 1.9.2015 for the 2nd deadline.

Applications sent by post, fax or e-mail will not be accepted.

14.4. Rules applicable

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 and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 (OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1).

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application 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 (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps ('EU Aid Volunteers initiative') (OJ L 122, 24.4.2014, p. 1).

14.5. Contacts

In case of questions, please contact: EACEA-EUAID-VOLUNTEERS@ec.europa.eu

PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON COMMERCIAL POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Notice concerning a partial reopening of the anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of zeolite A powder originating in Bosnia and Herzegovina

(2015/C 17/06)

In November 2010, by Regulation (EU) No 1036/2010 ⁽¹⁾, the European Commission ('the Commission') imposed a provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of zeolite A powder originating in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in May 2011 a definitive anti-dumping duty was imposed on the same imports by Council Implementing Regulation (EU) No 464/2011 ⁽²⁾ ('the definitive Regulation' or 'the contested Regulation'). Following the adoption of the definitive Regulation, by its Decision of 13 May 2011 ⁽³⁾ ('the Decision'), the Commission accepted an undertaking by the cooperating exporting producer in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Alumina d.o.o. Zvornik ('Alumina'), together with its related company in the Union, AB Kauno Teikimsa filialas 'Kauno Tiekimas', located in Kaunas, Lithuania.

By its judgment of 30 April 2013 in Case T-304/11, the General Court of the European Union ('the General Court') annulled the definitive Regulation in so far as it concerns Alumina. The decision of the General Court was confirmed by the Court of Justice ('CJ') in its judgment of 1 October 2014 in Case C-393/13 P.

Hence, imports into the Union of zeolite A powder by Alumina are no longer subject to the anti-dumping measures imposed by the definitive Regulation in conjunction with the Decision.

1. Information to customs authorities

Consequently, any anti-dumping duties paid pursuant to Council Implementing Regulation (EU) No 464/2011 on imports of zeolite A powder currently falling within CN code ex 2842 10 00 (TARIC code 2842 10 00 30) produced and exported by Alumina d.o.o. Zvornik ('Alumina') and originating in Bosnia and Herzegovina, should be repaid or remitted. The repayment or remission must be requested from national customs authorities in accordance with applicable customs legislation.

2. Partial reopening of the anti-dumping investigation

The CJ, through its judgment of 1 October 2014 in Case C-393/13 P, dismissed the appeal against the judgement of the GC which had annulled the definitive Regulation as far as it concerns Alumina. The CJ confirmed the finding of the General Court that the Commission committed an error of assessment in taking into account, for the purposes of constructing normal value, an element (in the form of a risk premium for a specific customer) which was such as to affect the normal character of the sales with the result that that normal value no longer reflected as closely as possible the sale price of a product as it would be if the product in question were sold in the country of origin in the ordinary course of trade.

It is recognised by the Courts ⁽⁴⁾ that, in cases where a proceeding consists of several administrative steps, the annulment of one of those steps does not annul the complete proceeding. The anti-dumping proceeding is an example of such a multi-step proceeding. Consequently, the annulment of parts of the definitive Regulation does not imply the annulment of the entire procedure prior to the adoption of the Regulation in question. On the other hand, according to Article 266 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the institutions of the European Union are obliged to comply with the judgment of 1 October 2014 of the CJ. Accordingly, the Union's institutions, in so complying with the judgment, have the possibility to remedy the aspects of the contested Regulation which led to its partial annulment, while leaving unchanged the uncontested parts which are not affected by the judgment ⁽⁵⁾. It must be noted that all other findings made in the contested Regulation, which were not contested within the time-limits for a challenge and thus were not considered by the Courts and did not lead to the annulment of the contested Regulation, remain valid.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 298, 16.11.2010, p. 27.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 125, 14.5.2011, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 125, 14.5.2011, p. 26.

⁽⁴⁾ Case T-2/95 *Industrie des poudres sphériques (IPS) v Council* [1998] ECR II-3939.

⁽⁵⁾ Case C-458/98 P *Industrie des poudres sphériques (IPS) v Council* [2000] ECR I-08147.

The Commission has therefore decided to reopen the anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of zeolite A powder originating in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The reopening is limited in scope to the implementation of the finding of the CJ as recalled above.

3. Procedure

Having determined, after informing the Member States, that a partial reopening of the anti-dumping investigation is justified, the Commission hereby partially reopens the anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of zeolite A powder originating in Bosnia and Herzegovina, initiated pursuant to Article 5 of the basic Regulation by a notice published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* ⁽¹⁾.

All interested parties are hereby invited to make their views known, submit information and provide supporting evidence. This information and supporting evidence must reach the Commission within the time limit set in point 4(a).

Furthermore, the Commission may hear interested parties, provided that they make a request showing that there are particular reasons why they should be heard. This request must be made within the time limit set in point 4(b).

4. Time limits

(a) For parties to make themselves known and to submit information

Subject to the provisions of this notice, all interested parties are hereby invited to make their views known, submit information and provide supporting evidence. Unless otherwise specified, this information and supporting evidence must reach the Commission within 37 days of the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

(b) Hearings

All interested parties may request to be heard by the Commission investigation services. Any request to be heard must be made in writing and must specify the reasons for the request. For hearings on issues pertaining to the initial stage of the investigation the request must be submitted within 15 days of the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union*. Thereafter, a request to be heard must be submitted within the specific deadlines set by the Commission in its communication with the parties.

5. Written submissions and correspondence

All written submissions, including the information requested in this notice, completed questionnaires and correspondence provided by interested parties for which confidential treatment is requested shall be labelled 'Limited' ⁽²⁾.

Interested parties providing 'Limited' information are required to furnish non-confidential summaries of it pursuant to Article 19(2) of the basic Regulation, which will be labelled 'For inspection by interested parties'. These summaries must be sufficiently detailed to permit a reasonable understanding of the substance of the information submitted in confidence. If an interested party providing confidential information does not furnish a non-confidential summary of it in the requested format and quality, such information may be disregarded.

Interested parties are invited to make all submissions and requests by e-mail including scanned powers of attorney and certification sheets, with the exception of voluminous replies which shall be submitted on a CD-ROM or DVD by hand or by registered mail. By using e-mail, interested parties express their agreement with the rules applicable to electronic submissions contained in the document 'CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN TRADE DEFENCE CASES' published on the website of the Directorate-General for Trade: http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2011/june/tradoc_148003.pdf The interested parties must indicate their name, address, telephone and a valid e-mail address and they should ensure that the provided e-mail address is a functioning official business e-mail which is checked on a daily basis. Once contact details are provided, the Commission will communicate with interested parties by e-mail only, unless they explicitly request to receive all documents from the Commission by another means of communication or unless the nature of the document to be sent requires the use of a registered mail. For further rules and information concerning correspondence with the Commission including principles that apply to submissions by e-mail, interested parties should consult the communication instructions with interested parties referred to above.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 40, 17.2.2010, p. 5.

⁽²⁾ A 'Limited' document is a document which is considered confidential pursuant to Article 19 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1225/2009 (OJ L 343, 22.12.2009, p. 51) and Article 6 of the WTO Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the GATT 1994 (Anti-Dumping Agreement). It is also a document protected pursuant to Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43).

Commission address for correspondence:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Trade
Directorate H
Office: CHAR 04/039
1040 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

E-mail: TRADE-ZEOLITE-IMPLJUDGCJ@ec.europa.eu

6. Non-cooperation

In cases where any interested party refuses access to or does not provide the necessary information within the time limits, or significantly impedes the investigation, findings, affirmative or negative, may be made on the basis of facts available, in accordance with Article 18 of the basic Regulation.

Where it is found that any interested party has supplied false or misleading information, the information may be disregarded and use may be made of facts available.

If an interested party does not cooperate or cooperates only partially and findings are therefore based on facts available in accordance with Article 18 of the basic Regulation, the result may be less favourable to that party than if it had cooperated.

Failure to give a computerised response shall not be deemed to constitute non-cooperation, provided that the interested party shows that presenting the response as requested would result in an unreasonable extra burden or unreasonable additional cost. The interested party should immediately contact the Commission.

7. Processing of personal data

Any personal data collected in this investigation will be treated in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 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 ⁽¹⁾.

8. Hearing Officer

Interested parties may request the intervention of the Hearing Officer for trade proceedings. The Hearing Officer acts as an interface between the interested parties and the Commission investigation services. The Hearing Officer reviews requests for access to the file, disputes regarding the confidentiality of documents, requests for extension of time limits and requests by third parties to be heard. The Hearing Officer may organise a hearing with an individual interested party and mediate to ensure that the interested parties' rights of defence are being fully exercised.

A request for a hearing with the Hearing Officer should be made in writing and should specify the reasons for the request. For hearings on issues pertaining to the initial stage of the investigation the request must be submitted within 15 days of the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union*. Thereafter, a request to be heard must be submitted within specific deadlines set by the Commission in its communication with the parties.

The Hearing Officer will also provide opportunities for a hearing involving parties to take place which would allow different views to be presented and rebuttal arguments offered on issues pertaining to, among other things, to establishing normal value.

For further information and contact details interested parties may consult the Hearing Officer's web pages on DG Trade's website: http://ec.europa.eu/trade/trade-policy-and-you/contacts/#_hearing-officer

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1.

PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION
POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.7500 — Bain Capital/Ibstock Group)

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2015/C 17/07)

1. On 12 January 2015, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾ by which the undertaking Bain Capital Investors, LLC ('Bain Capital', United States) acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation control of the whole of Ibstock Group Limited and Glen-Gery Corporation, two entities that together form the Ibstock group ('Ibstock', United Kingdom), by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- for Bain Capital: private equity investments through its family of funds on a worldwide basis across multiple industries,
- for Ibstock: manufacture and supply of clay and concrete products in the United Kingdom and the United States.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of the Merger Regulation. However, the final decision on this point is reserved. Pursuant to the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽²⁾ it should be noted that this case is a candidate for treatment under the procedure set out in the Notice.

4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation to the Commission.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent to the Commission by fax (+32 22964301), by email to COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu or by post, under reference number M.7500 — Bain Capital/Ibstock Group, to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').

⁽²⁾ OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.

Prior notification of a concentration
(Case M.7429 — Siemens/Dresser-Rand)
(Text with EEA relevance)
(2015/C 17/08)

1. On 9 January 2015, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾ by which the undertaking Siemens AG ('Siemens', Germany) acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation control of the whole of the undertaking Dresser-Rand Group Inc. ('Dresser-Rand', USA) by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— Siemens is a German stock corporation headquartered in Munich, Germany. Siemens offers a wide range of products and services to customers through the following business divisions: Building Technologies, Digital Factory, Energy Management, Healthcare, Mobility, Power and Gas, Power Generation Services, Process Industries and Drives, Wind Power and Renewables, and Financial Services.

Siemens product portfolio includes gas turbines, steam turbines, generators and compressors. Siemens also produces electric motors.

— Dresser-Rand is a US public company headquartered in Houston, Texas. Dresser-Rand focuses on servicing customers in the oil and gas (O&G) sector with products designed for applications along the O&G value chain: upstream exploration and production, midstream transportation, LNG and storage and downstream processing, and distribution of O&G and related by-products.

Dresser-Rand's product portfolio includes centrifugal and reciprocating gas compressors, small gas and steam turbines, gas expanders, gas and diesel engines and associated control panels.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of the Merger Regulation. However, the final decision on this point is reserved.

4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation to the Commission.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent to the Commission by fax (+32 22964301), by e-mail to COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu or by post, under reference number M.7429 — Siemens/Dresser-Rand, to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case M.7495 — APAX/EVRY)****Candidate case for simplified procedure****(Text with EEA relevance)**

(2015/C 17/09)

1. On 13 January 2015, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾ by which the Apax Partners LLP Company ('APAX', United Kingdom) acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation control of the whole of EVRY ASA ('EVRY', Norway) by way of purchase of shares.
2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
 - for APAX: investment advisory services to private equity funds investing in a range of industry sectors, including IT services,
 - for EVRY: IT services in the Nordic region (consulting, IT outsourcing, implementation, BPO, software support, hardware support).
3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of the Merger Regulation. However, the final decision on this point is reserved. Pursuant to the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under the Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽²⁾ it should be noted that this case is a candidate for treatment under the procedure set out in this Notice.
4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation to the Commission.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent to the Commission by fax (+32 22964301), by e-mail to COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu or by post, under reference number M.7495 — APAX/EVRY, to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').

⁽²⁾ OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.

ISSN 1977-091X (electronic edition)
ISSN 1725-2423 (paper edition)



Publications Office of the European Union
2985 Luxembourg
LUXEMBOURG

EN