



**COMPETITIVE CALL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS**

**FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROJECT CONCEPTS for**

**tackling air pollution in**

**Strumica, kavadarci, kumanovo, Struga and gostivar**

**(LOW-VALUE GRANTs)**

**BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT:**

UNDP North Macedonia in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning and five municipalities, is implementing a project “Scaling-up actions to tackle air pollution” aimed at decreasing the air pollution in Kavadarci, Kumanovo, Strumica, Struga and Gostivar. The project “Scaling-up actions to tackle air pollution” is part of a broader Programme Framework Agreement between Sida and UNDP that also includes the project “Building municipal capacity for project implementation – phase 2”. The Programme is funded by Sweden.

The overall objective of the “Scaling-up actions to tackle air pollution” project is to further strengthen the capacities of the local governments to design, plan, implement and monitor local action plans aimed at improving the air quality, and increase knowledge and awareness about issues related to air pollution. Particular attention shall be put to strengthening local governments’ capacities to assess what are the opportunities for and barriers to women’s meaningful participation in catalyzing clean air action and how to involve gender perspective in tailoring measures for air quality improvement.

The project will support the local authorities in five pilot municipalities in North Macedonia to detect and measure sources of air pollution, identify and plan proper measures to address the problems, and implement mitigation activities, along with a horizontal prevention activity of raising public awareness and facilitating behavioral change. The project will build on the results achieved and lessons learnt from the first project phase and will aim at scaling up and replication of the concept, that was developed and applied, in five other cities in the country that have serious issues with the air pollution: Kavadarci, Gostivar, Kumanovo, Strumica and Struga. The following interventions are planned to be implemented:

* Monitoring of air quality in five municipalities and modelling of air pollution sources;
* Capacity building for air quality management on local level;
* Public awareness and knowledge sharing.
* Implementation of priority measures of the Air Quality Plans - Demonstration of priority measures that address the causes of pollution;

Each of the five municipalities will have a funding envelope for implementation of the measures from their Air Quality Plans. Project funds shall be allocated for implementation of at least one priority measure identified in the Action Plans. Type of activities which can be supported include but are not limited to: replacement of heating systems in schools or kindergartens (replacement of wood/mazut heaters), energy efficiency measures in public buildings, extension of bicycle trails, expansion of urban green areas, etc. The scope and the volume of the activities will depend on the availability of funding and therefore, it is expected that the pilot municipalities shall provide their own funding on a cost-sharing basis.

The decision about the measures that will be implemented shall be made by citizens using the model of community forums. This will be done by providing active participation of women and men in the decision- making processes in their municipality.

**PURPOSE OF THE LOW VALUE GRANT:**

The overall purpose of this call is to support five local CSOs or coalition of local CSOs; to empower them to implement activities that will contribute to project’s efforts to tackle air pollution and support them to implement experiments that will test different behavioral incentives and encourage investment and implementation of measures which can contribute to air protection. The focus of the supported activities will be given to five targeted cities: Kavadarci, Gostivar, Kumanovo, Strumica and Struga.

To apply on this call CSOs must submit their project concepts. The project concept must include **two components** that shall be inter-linked and contribute to the above stated purpose of the call.

**The first component should focus on:**

* exploring the possibilities for engagement of women and man in the monitoring of air quality to provide additional crowed-sourced pool of information;
* data visualization and their promotion;
* innovative ways for public awareness raising on air pollution related issues and solutions.

Within the first component, the CSOs shall support UNDP and the respective municipality in organizing public consultation for selection of priority measures from the Municipal Air Quality Plans.

**The second component should focus on** conducting behavior change nudge/experiment.

The examples of behavior change experiments/nudges could include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. How can we motivate the households and/or local managers of schools, kindergartens, health facilities, etc., to replace the old and inefficient heating systems that pollute the air and consume more energy? What would be the best approach to influence their decision?
2. Testing incentives for investment in energy efficient appliances and lighting at the households/public buildings i.e. what could persuade owners/managers to invest in one or more energy efficiency measures?
3. Testing incentives for investment in renewable energy sources for electricity supply i.e. what could influence the decision to install for example solar panels at home or at a public building?
4. How can communities/municipalities change their perception in regards to the CO2 absorption capacities of the trees? What would be an incentive for someone to plant trees with higher CO2 absorption capacities instead of decorative plants and flowers?
5. Testing incentives for proper waste management at source i.e. what could be the behavior patterns that can help us to persuade the government/companies/households to get involved in this process?

The gender aspects and the needs of the socio-economical vulnerable groups shall be also considered while designing the set of activities.

The intervention(s)will be implemented in a period of 12 months (2 months project proposal writing and capacity building period + 10 months project implementation and reporting period).

The implementation of the selected projects is expected to be initiated in September 2023.

**CALL INFORMATION AND APPLICATION GUIDELINES FOR THE INTERESTED CSOs:**

CSOs seeking to apply to the program must complete the **application form.**

The submitted application forms should contain a detailed overview of the proposed intervention(s), including:

* The ideation phase of the intervention(s), including crowed-sourcing activities, data visualization and public awareness raising activities, as well as the behavior change hypothesis that the CSO is trying to test with the experiment(s).
* The practical steps for the implementation of the intervention(s) i.e. an action plan/time frame for the activities;
* Project budget;
* Gender analysis and elaboration of the socio-economical vulnerability aspects of different groups;
* An elaboration on how this intervention can be scaled-up in more than one neighborhood/area;
* Profile presenting capacities and previous experience of the CSO(s) and the Project Coordinator in implementation of project activities in the area relevant for the call.

In addition to the application form, applicants must submit the following documents:

1. A cover letter (with signature and stamp). In case of CSOs consortium the lead CSO signs the cover letter;

2. A copy of the applicant’s registration document that the CSO(s) is/are registered in North Macedonia (not older than 6 months);

1. A brief profile of the CSO(s) (mandate, financial status, human capacities and previous experience in projects related to air pollution, climate change, energy efficiency and renewable energy, etc); In case of consortium of CSOs, the profile should be submitted for both CSOs.
2. CV of the Project Coordinator responsible for the implementation of the grant;

An electronic version of the Application Form, including the additional documents, should be submitted to: [aleksandra.dimova@undp.org](mailto:aleksandra.dimova@undp.org) and CC: trajancho.naumovski@undp.org in the form of a PDF file. The e-mail subject must contain the name of the call ***Project Concept for Scaling-up actions to tackle air pollution***

Eligible to apply are the CSOs established and regulated in accordance with the Law on Civil Society Organizations and Foundations, located and active in one of the five targeted municipalities: Kumanovo, Gostivar, Struga, Strumica and Kavadarci.

The consortium of CSOs can be established by **maximum two local CSOs**. The lead CSO must submit the application. The lead CSOs will be evaluated against the respective criteria.

**The submission deadline is 30th of May 2023.**

**Each CSO or consortium of CSOs will be supported with a grant of up to 1,700,000 MKD.**

An info session will be organized, where all interested CSOs can learn more about the application process and ask any questions pertaining to the call. The info session will be organized online through the Zoom platform by 11th of May 2023. All interested CSOs will have to register for the info session by email at [trajancho.naumovski@undp.org](mailto:trajancho.naumovski@undp.org). Meeting minutes from the session will be provided in writing within 2 working days from the date of the meeting.

**The evaluation criteria** are presented in the Evaluation grid presented below.

The submitted concepts will be evaluated and scored against the following criteria (maximum 100 points):

1. Knowledge of the problem (10 points)

2. Compliance with the call objective and expected results of the project (50 points)

3. Consideration of gender and socio-economic aspects (20 points)

4. Potential for wider replication and scaling-up (10 points)

5. Capacity of the applicant (CSO and Project Coordinator) (10 points)

The concepts will be evaluated and approved by an Evaluation Committee. The Committee will be composed of representatives from the UNDP.

**EVALUATION GRID OF THE PROPOSED CONCEPT**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **knowledge of the problem** | | | | |
| 1 | | The degree to which the applicant presents knowledge, experience and understanding about air pollution related issue(s) and its effects. | *Maximum 10 points* |  |
| **COMPLIANCE WITH the call objective and expected results of the project** | | | | |
| 2 | | The degree to which the project idea is aligned with the objective of the call. *(The ideation phase of the intervention(s), including the expected results and the behavior changing hypothesis that the project is trying to test with the experiment.)* | *Maximum 20 points* |  |
| The degree to which the practical steps for the implementation of the interventions contribute to the achievement of the expected results. *(The practical steps for the implementation of the interventions. Action plan of the intervention and indicators of success)* | *Maximum 30 points* |  |
| **CONSIDERATION OF THE GENDER AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS** | | | | |
| 3 | | The degree to which the proposed approach considers gender related issues into the proposed activities | *Maximum 10 points* |  |
| The degree to which the approach proposed for the project considers socio-economically vulnerable households | *Maximum 10 points* |  |
| **Potential for wider replication and scaling-up** | | | | |
| 4 | The degree to which the project has a clear and justified potential for further development, scaling-up and replication. *(An elaboration on how this intervention can be scaled in more than one neighborhood.)* | | *Maximum 10 points* |  |
| **CAPACITY OF THE CSO/COORDINATOR** | | | | |
| 5 | Previous experience of the Project Coordinator in implementation of project activities in the area relevant for the call (air pollution, energy efficiency, climate change, renewable energy, etc.). | | *Maximum 5 points* |  |
| Previous experience of the CSO in implementation of project activities in the area relevant for the call (air pollution, energy efficiency, climate change, renewable energy, etc.). | | *Maximum 5 points* |  |
| **TOTAL SCORE FOR THE APPLICANT** | | | | |
|  | *Maximum 100 points* | | |  |

**ADDITIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT PROVIDED BY UNDP TO THE SELECTED CSOs:**

The project *Scaling-up actions to tackle air pollution* aims to identify five strong concepts (one from each city Kumanovo, Kavadarci, Struga, Strumica or Gostivar) which, with the support of UNDP, CSO mentor and Behavior changing expert, will be developed into project proposals.The intervention(s)will be implemented in a period of 12 months (2 months project proposal writing and capacity building period + 10 months project implementation and reporting period).

After conducting set of capacity building activities, approval of the project proposal and signing the contract with UNDP, the implementation of the projects is expected to be initiated in September 2023.

For further development of the project concepts into project proposals, their implementation, monitoring of the result and evaluation, UNDP will engage two experts who will support the CSOs from the beginning until the end of the process.

**The CSO mentor (national)** will work closely with the CSOs within the first component. S/he will be responsible to further strengthen the capacities of the CSOs to address the needs of the call related to crowed-source mapping, public awareness raising and data visualization.

**The Behavior Changing expert (international)** will closely work with the CSOs to further develop the proposed behavior change experiment/nudge. S/he will be responsible to conduct tailor-made capacity building trainings on behavior changing subject and support the CSOs from the very beginning till the end of the projects.

The two mentors will closely coordinate and ensure gender mainstreaming and consideration of the needs of the most vulnerable groups in the envisioned activities.

UNDP expects full commitment of the selected CSOs and their active participation in the capacity building activities. For this reason: *the CSOs will need to attend webinars/short training programme that will empower them to learn more about the behaviour changing activities/behavioural nudges, crowed-sourcing, innovative approaches to public awareness raising and/or data visualisation and how to implement them within their proposed interventions. The CSOs will work closely with the experts in co-creating project proposals and implementing the agreed interventions.*

Once the project proposals are accepted by UNDP, UNDP and the respective CSOs will sign Low Value Grant Agreement which will regulate the standard terms and conditions for cooperation.

The CSOs will need to implement the designed intervention(s) that are mutually agreed and approved by UNDP. The CSOs will be responsible for securing the technical and logistical needs and the suitable human resources for the implementation of the interventions. The CSOs will ensure that all health, security and ethical measures are taken for the successful implementation of the intervention. Furthermore, the CSO will need to record and analyze the process of implementation of the intervention.