



Frequently Asked Questions

Awareness-raising activities in Member States on “Upskilling Pathways: New Opportunities for Adults”

Call for proposals VP/2017/011

I could not take part in the webinar on 16 May, where can I find the information given there?

The link to see again the info session and the Power Point presentation are available on the call for proposals [webpage](#). You can also write an email to our functional mailbox empl-vp-2017-011@ec.europa.eu to request those links and documents, or ask any question related to the call.

ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANTS

How many co-applicants do we need for one proposal?

You do not have to involve co-applicants (build a consortium) in your application. If you do, there is a minimum of one lead applicant and one co-applicant.

In the case of consortia, to be eligible, applications must be submitted by a regional, national or transnational consortium composed of one lead applicant and one or more co-applicants (affiliated entities and associate organisations are also eligible) established in eligible participating EaSI countries (see section 6.1 of the call). Several applicants within the same region or country can join a transnational consortium.

In case of transnational consortia, even though actions can take place in several countries, the proposal must specify which country it will focus on; (bearing in mind the need to secure maximum impact).

The call for proposals often mentions Member States, can other countries participate?

The call is mainly aimed at supporting the implementation of the “Upskilling Pathways” Recommendation, which was adopted by Ministers of the 28 EU Member States. But Iceland, Norway, Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey can also participate in the EaSI programme, under which this call is launched (see section 6.1 of the call).

Can a National Coordinator for the European Agenda on Adult Learning be an applicant?

Yes, if the Coordinator fulfils the eligibility criteria.

Can a vocational school/a university be eligible?

Can a local authority/a private entity mandated by the government to implement activities be eligible?

The Commission cannot give a prior opinion on whether an applicant is eligible or not because we do not have the supporting documents from you at this stage to make that judgement.

We advise that you read carefully section 6 of the Call.

If your entity wants to be lead/sole applicant, apply if you think your entity belongs to the category "*public entities in charge of national or regional policies and actions for upskilling adults*".

If your entity wants to be co-applicant, you need to belong to the category "*public or private entities (profit-making or non-profit making) involved in the organisation, financing or provision of services such as skills assessment, validation, education and training and guidance targeted to adults*".

Your entity would also need to comply with all other eligibility criteria announced in the call.

Should a Ministry sign the declaration of honour, if it is an applicant?

Yes, every applicant has to sign the declaration of honour.

For more details about the documents to be signed by different categories of applicant, the stage of the process at which they should be provided, and whether they should be signed and stamped, please refer to the checklist at the end of the call.

How can we find partners to develop a proposal for this call?

There is no dedicated partner search tool for the EaSI programme but you can use [the tool available on EPALE](#), the electronic platform for adult learning in Europe.

Who is the national authority implementing “Upskilling Pathways” in my country? Must it necessarily be involved in the proposal?

Each proposal should be coherent with the relevant country’s / countries’ approach to implementing the Recommendation.

The European Commission has not been informed by Member States about which body or bodies will be responsible for the implementation of the Upskilling Pathways Recommendation in each country.

Potential applicants may wish to contact their national Ministry of Education or of Labour for information.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Do all specific objectives within one strand have to be covered by one proposal?

No. You are free to implement one, two or three of the specific objectives of the call, according to the needs of your country.

Your proposal should be consistent in the choices you are making.

Your proposal should be consistent with the approach taken in your country regarding the implementation of “Upskilling Pathways”. For instance, if your proposal aims to meet objective 3 (to support stakeholders in the design and delivery of outreach measures for your country’s priority groups) you will need to know which priority groups have been identified by your government.

If your proposal aims to meet objective 3 (to support stakeholders in the design and delivery of outreach measures for your country’s priority groups), but your country has not yet determined its priority groups, your project may need to undertake work to identify priority groups as an activity under objective 2 in your proposal.

Can activities under this call complement current activities being implemented in Member States?

Yes of course, provided that they are not already funded by the EU (double funding is forbidden, see Financial Guidelines).

Member States are to outline appropriate measures to implement “Upskilling Pathways” by mid-2018 (see “Upskilling Pathways” Recommendation) so we strongly advise potential beneficiaries to coordinate with the relevant authorities, in order to prepare a proposal that is in line with the approach they are taking to the implementation of the Recommendation (e.g. in terms of priority groups) and to build on what is already being done in this field.

We strongly advise applicants, as indicated in the call, to build on the work of National Coordinators for the European Agenda on Adult Learning ([see list here](#)).

We also advise applicants to build on any existing measures that could form the first, second or third step of Upskilling Pathways. The Recommendation is about building upon provision that already exists, where possible.

Can the proposal focus on one professional sector?

The purpose of the Call is to assist Member States to prepare the ground for their implementation of the Upskilling Pathways Recommendation. It is in this context that each proposal will need to provide sufficient justification and evidence for the focus it has chosen.

Can training on beekeeping / e-trade skills/agriculture/digital skills be financed under this call?

Financing training is not the purpose of this call. Objective 3 is about supporting relevant stakeholders to stimulate the use of upskilling opportunities available, not to fund training itself.

Is it possible that co-applicants of a consortium run different activities within one common proposal?

Yes, provided that they fulfil the objectives of the call.

Is it possible to target several priority groups? Is it possible to target refugees?

It is possible to target one or several priority groups. The proposal has to be coherent with the approach that has been decided by the national authority/ies in charge of implementing “Upskilling Pathways”.

The choice of target groups should be duly justified and in line with the objectives of the call .

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

What do eligible costs cover?

For details about eligible and ineligible costs, please see section 4.2 of the Financial Guidelines.

Can staff costs be included in the beneficiary’s own financial contribution?

Staff costs, like all other costs satisfying the eligibility criteria, can count as co-financing.

Can the beneficiary’s own financial contribution be higher than 20%?

Yes. Indeed, if the total final eligible cost at the end of the project is higher than the total eligible cost approved by the Commission, the difference would need to be met by the beneficiary, which may lead the beneficiary to fund more than 20% of the total final eligible cost.