

Wednesday, 5 August 2020

Answers to Questions regarding the Open Call of the GR-Energy Programme

Question 1:

Where can we find the annexes to the above Call in editable form?

Answer:

All Annexes of the Open Call of the GR-Energy Programme can be found at the Programme's website,
in Greek:

<http://eeares.cres.gr/proskliseis.htm>

and in English:

http://eeares.cres.gr/eng/calls_eng.htm

Question 2:

Table 3 of Article 5 of the Call contains the breakdown budgets by category of expenditure. The sum of the percentages adds up to 101%. Please specify.

Answer:

In Table 3 (Budget breakdown per expenditure category) of Article 5 (Budget Available for the "GR-Energy" Projects) of the Call, the lower limit of Category 1 "Interventions" is **90.5% and not 91.5%** incorrectly typed. The same correction applies to Table 1 of Annex 1 (Guide for Submitting Project Proposals).

Question 3:

In Table 3 of Article 5 of the Call in the category Interventions we can find the bracket "(equipment, assignment)". Please specify.

Answer:

In Table 1 of Annex 1 (Guide for Submitting Project Proposals) the bracket next to the category "Interventions" is indicated as "(Procurement, Contracting)". This is the correct bracket also in Table 3 of Article 5 of the Call under the Interventions category (typing mistake).

Question 4:

The eligible budget for the project is between € 500,000 and € 1,300,000, including or not including VAT?

Answer:

Article 5 of the Call (Budget Available for the "GR-Energy" Projects) lists the categories of eligible and non-eligible costs. Also, in Section 1 (Expenditure Eligibility) of Annex 1 (Guide for Submitting Project Proposals), the eligibility rules of the Programme are analysed in detail.

Question 5:

Our company, which is governed by Law 2545/1997 (OGG 254a/1997 Industrial and Business Areas and other provisions), is interested in submitting a proposal to the Programme "European Economic Area Financial Mechanism" - Programme Area "Renewable Energy Sources, Energy Efficiency, Energy Security", with the aim of an energy upgrade of the public premises and infrastructure of the Park, as well as the installation of RES systems.

According to Article 14 paragraph 2 of the above OGG, "The establishment of an Industrial and Business Areas is always considered to be of public interest". Could you confirm our company's eligibility for submission of a proposal to the Programme so that we can take the relevant actions?

Answer:

Article 4 of the Call sets out the eligibility conditions to participate in the Call. Each potential Project Promoter should examine and document its compliance with all paragraphs 4.1 (namely, eligible applicants should be entities that act towards public interest and have been established and operate in the public interest), (e.g. national, regional and local authorities, municipalities, research and educational institutions etc., within the Greek geographical borders, 4.2. 4.3 and 4.4 of the above Article.

It should also be reminded that in Section 2.2. "Content of the Project Proposal" in Annex 1 (Guide for Submitting Project Proposals) each Project Promoter shall include in its proposal: "Documentation that the Project Promoter submitting the proposal has the competence to submit the Project proposal, such as statutes, Programme Agreement, constitution act, etc."

However, reference to Article 14 par.2 of Law 2545/1997 provides the evidence of "public interest" as a justification of expropriations and does not mean that a company within Industrial and Business Areas serves the public interest. In any case, each potential Project Promoter should justify the fulfillment of all the eligibility conditions of paragraphs 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 of Article 4 of the Call.

Question 6:

Following the Call for the EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA FINANCIAL MECHANISM Programme "GR-Energy", considering Article 4 of the Call, as well as Article 7.2 of the Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, that refer to eligible operators (public or private with commercial or non-commercial purpose) from both the Donor Countries and the Beneficiary State, we would like to ask whether a company dedicated to energy audits and the provision of energy service companies (ESCO) is considered eligible for the Programme?

Answer:

As indicated in Article 3 of the Call (Scope of the Call and Indicators of the Programme), "*The present Call aims to support projects that propose innovative solutions to increase renewable energy production and energy efficiency in **public social infrastructure***".

Each potential Project Promoter should consider its compliance with all paragraphs 4.1, 4.2. 4.3 and 4.4 of the above Article. In this context, paragraph 4.1 emphasizes that: "*Eligible applicants are entities that act **towards public interest** (e.g. research and educational institutions, regional and local authorities, municipal companies, etc.) within the Greek geographical borders*" (namely, entities that act towards public interest and have been established and operate in the public interest).

In addition, paragraph 4.4 of Article 4 is highlighted and states that, "*EU and national regulations on public procurement, competition and state aid shall be complied with at all*

levels of the Programme. For this purpose, the project grant rate shall be defined based on the assessment of compliance with State Aid rules”.

Question 7:

We wish to finance a self-production project from solar panels that we would like to install in a hospital in order to have self-production, let us know if we can continue the whole process under the project funding programme in cooperation with CRES and how we can initiate the whole process.

Answer:

The Centre of Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (CRES) is designated as the Programme Operator of the GR-Energy Programme and fully applies the EEA FM regulatory framework 2014-21. The entire relevant regulatory framework of the Programme is available on the Programme's website in Greek:

http://eeares.cres.gr/kanonistiko_plaisio.htm

and in English:

http://eeares.cres.gr/eng/Regulatory_framework.htm

The terms of the current Call are clearly set out in both the main part of the Call and its Annexes. In particular, the content of each proposal is set out in Section 2 and the evaluation procedure is described in Section 3 (Proposal Evaluation) of Annex 1 (Guide for Submitting Project Proposals).

Question 8:

We would like some clarification on the eligible costs as the Call only mentions the categories. Is there a table of all eligible and non-eligible costs in each category? Can you confirm whether the technical studies are eligible?

Answer:

Please see answer number 4.

In addition, in Section 1.2 (Eligible Direct Expenditures) of Annex 1 (Guide for Submitting Project Proposals), the content of the 'Consulting Services' category is described.