

## CALL TO COVER PRICE INCREASE IN EXISTING PROJECTS UNDER THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSION PROGRAMME

### CALL SHORTCUT: LDIDP

#### I. OBJECTIVE OF THE CALL

The aim of the call is to financially assist Project Promoters to cope with the current economic challenges of extraordinary price increases caused by external factors through no fault of the Project Promoters themselves (hereinafter referred to as 'price increases')

#### II. BASIC CONDITIONS

<b>Call launched:</b>	28.4.2023
<b>Call deadline:</b>	31.5.2023, 23:59 CEST
<b>Total allocation:</b>	<b>EUR 632 810</b> Project Promoters are informed that the Call allocation is indicative and the Programme Operator is entitled to make adjustments and transfers between Programme outcomes given the results of the selection process.
<b>Announced by:</b>	Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatisation of the Slovak Republic
<b>Funding sources:</b>	Norway Grants and State Budget of the Slovak Republic
<b>Eligible applicants:</b>	Project Promoters implementing a project under calls <a href="#">LDI01</a> and <a href="#">LDI02</a> .
<b>Eligible projects:</b>	All projects supported under one of the above calls, provided that they foresee the use of at least <b>10 % of the total eligible expenditure</b> at the date of submission of the application. The assumption must be based on actual expenditure paid and recorded in the Project Promoter's accounts at that date. The Programme Operator reserves the right to adjust the proportion above during the evaluation process or to waive the application of this condition, e.g. if allocated amount is not spent. Projects where serious cases of irregularities have been identified within the meaning of Article 12.5.1 of <a href="#">the Regulation</a> are not eligible. This call does not set a limit on the share of cost on infrastructure (investment measures) <sup>1</sup> in the total eligible costs of the project; this limit applied exclusively to calls LDI01 and LDI02, under which the Project Promoters complied with it.

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of the Programme the infrastructure (hard measures) are defined as any activities that require a building permit/a building announcement or purchase of buildings or estates.

<b>The maximum amount of additional funding that can be applied for per project:</b>	The amount of additional funding applied for to <b>cover price increase</b> shall not exceed 25 % of the amount of the project grant specified in the project contract
<b>The minimum amount of additional funding that can be requested per project:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EUR 80 000</li> </ul>
<b>Co-financing:</b>	The project grant rate is required to remain unchanged, i.e. in case of an increase in the project grant, the Project Promoter will be obliged to increase the co-financing by an equivalent amount.
<b>Indicative timetable:</b>	A decision on whether or not to allocate the additional funding will be taken within two months

### III. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Additional funding to **cover price increases** can only be awarded if the following conditions are met:

1. That it has been demonstrated that the exceptional price increases are clearly beyond the control of the Project Promoter and were unforeseeable when the project proposal was submitted.
2. That awarding additional funding to cover the price increase is the only solution to safeguard the planned results (i.e. 'save the project') within the available timeframe
3. That the additional funding will allow the project to complete its activities within the eligibility period;
4. The rate of the project grant must be set at a level that complies with Article 6.4.2 of [the Regulation](#) and other relevant programme rules, in particular the call under which the project has been supported.
5. That the award of increased funding complies with the relevant state-aid rules and that public procurement rules can be complied with, as applicable;

### IV. ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

Expenditure is eligible from the date of commencement of the Project implementation as specified in the Project Contract, regardless of whether its material and financial execution has been completed and/or is still ongoing at the time of submission of the request for additional funds (i.e. expenditure already incurred and paid from other sources of funding prior to the submission of the request for additional funds, as well as expenditure not yet incurred at the time of submission of the request for additional funds, is eligible). Expenditure must be invoiced and paid by 30 April 2024 in accordance with Article 8.13.3 [of the Regulation](#).

The Programme Operator allows project expenditure to be considered as incurred in the period of eligibility if the costs have been invoiced and paid by 30 April 2024 and the goods have been delivered

(in the case of goods) or performed (in the case of services and works) within 3 months of the advance paid to the contractor, provided that the applicable legislation of the Slovak Republic is complied with<sup>2</sup>.

Further details of the eligibility of expenditure are determined by the relevant call under which the project has been supported.

## V. SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION

The application for additional funding shall be made in Slovak with a summary in English on the prescribed form (Annex 1 of the Call). Mandatory or optional supporting documentation may be submitted in Slovak if this is apparent from the nature of the documents (e.g. original project documentation, works contract, bank statement, etc.).

The Project Promoter **should also attach** documentation proving the price increase in the completed application form, e.g.:

- Bill of Quantities prior to the submission of the original project application and the current Bill of Quantities,
- Invoice for operating costs prior to the submission of the original project application and current invoices,
- Price survey conducted prior to the submission of the original project application and current quote,
- A professional cost estimate prior to the submission of the original project application and an up-to-date quote,
- Official pricing lists prior to submitting the original project application and current quote, etc.

The application for additional funding shall be submitted electronically signed by the applicant via the e-system of the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatisation of the Slovak Republic No. E0006167914. Instructions on how to send the completed application can be found [here](#).

The date and time of receipt of the application and compliance with the date and time of the call deadline will be judged by the date and time of the delivery indicated on the delivery receipt.

## VI. SELECTION PROCESS

The evaluation of applications will be carried out in accordance with Article 7.4.8 of [the Regulation](#) as follows:

The Programme Operator will assess the compliance of applications with the selection criteria set out in Annex 2 of the call. For the purposes of this call, the staff of the Programme Operator carrying out this assessment shall be considered as expert evaluators. The results of this assessment will be

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<sup>2</sup> §19, para. 3 and para. 8 of Act 523/2004 Coll. on the Financial Rules of the Public Administration and on Amendments and Additions to Certain Acts

submitted by the Programme Operator to the Selection Committee set up under the [Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the Selection Committee](#).

Unless otherwise determined by the Programme Operator or the Selection Committee, while maintaining the principle of equal treatment, only those Project Promoters who meet all the elimination criteria set out in the selection criteria shall qualify for the allocation of additional funds.

At any stage of the selection process, the Programme Operator may request the Project Promoter to provide additional information within a reasonable period of time, normally 5 working days.

If the allocation of funds requested exceeds the available allocation of funds, the deciding criterion shall be the cumulative amount of total eligible expenditure reported in the latest Project Interim Report submitted by the Project Promoter. This criterion will be used to determine the descending order of the applications, which will be grouped as follows:

- Very high spending (more than 60%)
- High spending (more than 40-60%)
- Average spending (more than 30-40 %)
- Low spending (20-30%)
- Very low spending (less than 20%)

If it is not possible to support all applications in a particular group, the Selection Committee will recommend the application according to the lowest risk level, taking into account the final date of eligibility of expenditure and the public procurement planned under the application.

The Selection Committee shall be entitled to recommend a change to the ranking. The change to be duly justified and communicated to the Project Promoter or Project Promoters concerned if the Programme Operator accepts the recommended change. The proposed change shall also be accompanied by a proper justification of the Selection Committee's recommendation not to support a particular application. The Selection Committee may also establish a reserve list (pipeline) of applications that may be supported if additional funding becomes available.

The final decision on the allocation of the additional funding will be taken by the Programme Operator.

## **VII. STATE AID**

In accordance with Article 8.16 of the Regulation, the Programme Operator shall ensure that all state aid provided under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 complies with the procedural and substantive State aid rules in force at the time the State aid is granted. Since the call is limited to cover price increase of already existing projects, the evaluation of state aid done by the Programme Operator shall essentially be the same as of the original project.

## **VIII. FURTHER INFORMATION**

The additional funding is explicitly linked to the terms and conditions relevant to calls LDI01 and LDI02, including financing and reporting, and the project contract as amended, if applicable.

There is no legal entitlement to additional funding.

The Programme Operator is entitled to approve an amount of additional funds lower than requested, in particular in case of a discrepancy between the data in the submitted application and the conditions of the call (maximum amount of additional funds that can be requested for the project, co-financing, eligibility of activities, eligibility of expenditure), lack of allocation under the call, etc.

If approved, the provision of funds will be formalised in the form of an amendment to the project contract.

The Programme Operator can be contacted for questions at:

- e-mail address: [eeagrants@mirri.gov.sk](mailto:eeagrants@mirri.gov.sk) (the request must be linked to the Call - call code 'LDIDP'; questions received by e-mail will be answered within 10 days);
- by phone at +421-2-2092 8464.

## **VIII. ANNEXES**

1. Additional Funding Request Form (docx format)
2. Selection criteria