EOL – Operational Component 2

Most asked questions

This document is subject to revisions and updates based on new questions posed by prospective applicants. Check https://educationoutloud.org/grants/now-open-open-call-concept-notes-component-2 for the most recent version

In this document questions of common interest received from applicants and other stakeholders are listed and answered:

Eligibility issues

Q 1: **Can an organization which is a member of an International NGO, coalition or alliance apply for OC2?**

A 1: Applicant organizations must be registered nationally and firmly anchored in the country where the proposed project is to be implemented. INGOs are not eligible as applicants for OC2, and neither are national chapters of INGOs even if they are independently registered.

Q 2: **Can an INGO country office be co-applicant to a fully eligible Lead Applicant?**

A 2: INGO country offices cannot be co-applicants but can be part the project setup as strategic partner, cf. A3.

Q 3 **Can an organization which is a member of an International NGO, coalition or alliance be involved in OC2?**

A 3 INGO national chapters with a prior experience of working with applicants can form part of the project setup without receiving funding. However, direct costs regarding learning or training inputs from a strategic partner can be included as part of the project budget if it is convincingly explained why, and if the proposal clearly shows significant value added of this constellation.

Q 4 **Can an organization registered in a non-GPE country apply for OC2**

A 4 No; to be eligible for OC2 the organization must be established in an GPE partner country. OC2-eligible countries are listed in the Applicant Guidelines.

Q 5:   **Is it possible for an organization to apply for funds under OC2, if the organization has applied for EOL funds under OC1 or OC3?**

A 5   Organizations can only receive funding from one OC. An organization receiving funds for activities from one OC will not be able to receive additional funding from another OC. However, organizations only participating as strategic collaborating partners in OC3 or OC1, are still eligible for OC2

Q 6:   **Can a private company qualify as a civil society actor and apply for OC2 funds?**

A 6:   The organization applying for OC2 funds must be a civil society organization. Private companies do not qualify as applicants.

Q 7:   **Can a concept note be submitted under OC2 if the applicant is part of the year zero process for OC3?**

A 7:   Yes, as year zero does not automatically leads to approval, a concept note for another OC being launched during the year zero period can be submitted. However, all eligibility terms for each OC are still fully applicable, which might lead to not being eligible for one OC application if/when the other proposal is approved.

What can be funded – Assessment of focus

Q 1:   **Can a project have specific focus on some of the many COVID-19 related implications for education and civil society work.**

A 1:   The current COVID-19 pandemic is having significant implications for the education sector and the context in which many CSOs are working. Applicants proposing to work on social accountability may want to address this crisis and its implications for inclusion and quality education.

Coverage, geographical and organizational

Q 1:   **How will coverage be administered in the approval process? Will there be a global spread of projects? Or are there specific or fixed funding pots/envelopes for each region?**

A 1:   There are no fixed funding pots/envelopes. However, EOL strives for a balanced portfolio covering a diverse range of countries/regions, thematic issues and types of organizations being involved.

Q 2:   **Can an OC2 application cover activities in more than one country?**

A 2:   OC2 has a distinctive focus on national and local activities. An application may include interventions in more than one country running concurrently e.g. to test the importance of local context for the effectiveness of a particular approach or methodology. Applicants may also include in the proposal efforts to draw on already existing relevant experience from other countries. Note that if the proposal covers interventions in several countries, it

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is a requirement that applicants are represented in all the involved countries by a formally registered organisation which has been operational for at least two years.

Q 3: **Must all the organizations participating in the project be formally registered CSOs and working with education?**

A 3: Only the Lead applicant shall be a formally/legally registered organization. EOL seeks in this call to involve a wide range of organization relevant for the work towards strengthening local and national transparency and social accountability in education policy processes. The organizations are not required to be working directly with education but can be organizations such as trade unions, women's groups, youth groups, minority groups, school management committees and/or drawing their experience from other sectors (health, water etc.).

Year Zero

Q 1: **Are eventual costs for year zero additional to the full project budget, or is year zero and the project implementation budget together amounting to a maximum of USD 1.2 million?**

A 1: The year zero cost will be covered within the overall the OC3 grant ceiling of a maximum of USD 1.2 million/project.

Q 2: **Is the timeframe of minimum 2 and maximum 3 years for the project with or without the year zero period? What is the timeframe for the project from when implementation begins after project approval?**

A 2: The year zero period is included in the project timeframe of maximum 36 months.

Q 3: **Will costs of the budgeted funds used in year zero be covered even if the applicant's full proposal is not funded?**

A 3: Yes, costs of the approved expenses in year zero will be covered even if the applicant's full proposal is not funded.

Budget and finance

Q 1: **Are there any guidelines for the relative size of budget lines in the overall budget e.g. % for administration, % for MEL?**

A 1: No, for the concept note there are no specific guidelines for size of amounts of the budget lines.

Q 2: **Is it possible to provide sub grants through this call to cooperating organizations seeking funding for their projects?**

A 2: This is possible, though the grant agent would advise that extensive use of sub-granting modalities may imply that project outputs may be more diverse and complex to monitor with potentially less relevance for the intended project outcomes.

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Other/General

Q 1: **Is it mandatory to upload legal or administrative documents of the organizations together with the concept note?**

A 1: It is only mandatory to upload documents listed in the guidelines. No legal or administrative documents of the organizations is required for the concept note proposal.

Q 2: **Is there flexibility in the use of language for the concept note and/or the presentation of the outcomes?**

A 2: Applicants may submit their proposals using either of the four languages.: English, French, Portuguese or Spanish.

Q 3: **How many grants are anticipated under OC2?**

A 3: There will be maximum between 15 and 20 grants under OC2 in two CfP. This depends on the size of the individual grants.

Q 4: **Applicant guidelines indicate that high quality concept notes which are rejected due to lack of funds, will be shared with other possible funders". Please clarify why a "qualified" concept note is being rejected?**

A 4: There will in OC2 only be funds for 15-20 grants. However, all applications will be assessed, scored and eventually balanced by the GISP. After deciding on the top projects to be funded, there might be important quality projects left. EOL and GPE will support these by sharing with possible funders in their wider network, if the applicant agrees to this.

Q 5: **Are there any plans for future CfP for OC2?**

A 5: The EOL programme includes two OC2 CfP, where second round will be planned on the basis of learnings from the first round in order to address gaps experienced during the first call. The second round of CfP for OC2 is planned for the last quarter of 2020.

Q 6: **What does the sustainability criteria in the Concept template imply?**

A 6: The grant agent acknowledges that OC2 support implies time bound support for project related activities and that alliances awarded an OC2 grant may cease to exist once the project has been completed. Accordingly, sustainability measures should enhance the likelihood that applicant organisations incorporate lessons learned and results accomplished in their respective individual organizations.