

MULTI-ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS IN THE AREA OF COMMUNICATION¹

PERIOD COVERED: 2016-2019

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¹ Revised in December 2016 in order to update Section VIII on indicative timetable and budget

I. SUBJECT OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

In accordance with the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Union², in particular Articles 121(4) and 128 thereof, and its rules of application³, the European Parliament (EP) hereby adopts a multi-annual work programme for communication grants covering the period 2016-2019.

This multi-annual work programme for grants shall be implemented through the publication of calls for proposals on the European Parliament's website. Applicants shall apply for funding following the requirements set out in the calls for proposals.

The grants programme is an instrument of the EP's communication strategy in order to reach the goals mentioned below. Projects co-financed by the EP should contribute to disseminating information about the EP to citizens in the Member States as broadly and efficiently as possible.

II. BACKGROUND

From 2005 until 2011, the EP launched annual grant programmes for co-financing projects in the Member States aimed at enhancing the understanding of the political nature of the EP, its role and functioning, encouraging wider public interest in the decision-making process and providing a platform for citizens to raise issues which are important to them.

During the period 2012-2015, grants were awarded in the framework of a multi-annual grants programme implemented through multi-annual framework partnership agreements and specific grant agreements with partner organisations. The purpose of the programme was to raise awareness and encourage wide public interest in the European decision-making process. Four areas of communication activities were covered: television, radio, web and events.

III. GRANTS IN THE EP'S COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Strategy:

The EP is committed to actively communicate in order to build a better understanding of the Institution and its political nature among citizens, to encourage civic participation in the decision making process at EU level, to illustrate how the EP holds other Institutions accountable through its power of scrutiny and to produce information that is easily understood about what the EP and the European Union are debating and deciding.

Consequently the grants programme supports and complements the EP's Institutional communication strategy. More precisely, the EP's Directorate-General for Communication uses this programme as a channel to expand and multiply its message about the work of the EP and its Members, to raise awareness of its political nature and to facilitate a two-way communication.

² Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012, as last amended by Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2015/1929 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 October 2015.

³ Commission Delegated regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012, as last amended by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/2462 of 30 October 2015.

With a view to strengthening our communication with citizens in a professional, transparent and objective manner about the debates taking place in the EP, the impact of European legislation on citizens' lives, as well as the role the EP plays in scrutinising actions of the EU Institutions, the network of grant beneficiaries has proved to be an efficient channel for the outreach on national, regional and local level.

In terms of audience, European youth is at the heart of the EP's communication efforts. There is an evident need to foster the understanding about the EP's impact on decision-making, to provide more knowledge about the importance of citizens' voices - in particular in view of the next European elections in 2019. Engaging with citizens at a young age is a decisive move to ensure sustainable interaction between European citizens and Institutions in the future.

Furthermore, raising awareness of the EP's decisions and activities from a national perspective is crucial for an effective outreach. EP Information Offices across Member States⁴ are the intermediate contact points and key actors as regards the accurate dissemination of information about the EP's actions from a national angle.

The grants programme therefore provides ample opportunities to expand the multiplication of information in Member States, to continue in the spirit of efficiency, transparency and openness responding thus to the ever growing interest in European affairs.

Identity of the EP:

The identity of the EP is based on three pillars.

1. The European Parliament as wielder of democratic power and influence. The EP has two different, but equally important, sources of power which are the formal power such as the **legislative and budgetary power** and the **power of scrutiny** stemming from the treaties.

Informal power is the informal influence exerted by the Institution and originates from the moral authority of the EP. The EP's informal power allows the chamber to influence the **political landscape** through various means such as debating issues and placing them on the political, media and social agenda.

2. The European Parliament as a young and open Institution.

Open: Democracy and debate are the foundation of the EP. This necessarily means that it is an Institution which is willing and indeed required by its very nature to be open on all fronts. In this sense it is more than just a physical body; it is a forum where people get together to debate, compromise and find solutions to problems.

Young: Most national parliaments have a long history and strong democratic tradition. Their legitimacy is rarely questioned. In contrast, the EP is young and represents a form of parliamentary body that is neither well-entrenched, nor universally understood and embraced. For this reason, its role and powers have evolved throughout its short history and continue to evolve today.

3. The European Parliament as a power for and by the peoples of Europe.

⁴ http://www.europarl.europa.eu/atyourservice/en/information_offices.html

As the EU's only directly elected Institution, the EP and specifically its Members represent the citizens of the EU. Indeed, the citizens represent the starting point (elections) and end point (legislation) of the Parliament's work. Maintaining contact with the citizens is built into the EP's calendar of work in a way that applies to no other EU Institution. What differentiates it from national parliaments is that the EP is the place where the diversity of European public opinion is heard and exchanged.

Taken together, these three pillars represent the elements that are unique to the EP and that distinguish it from other EU national actors and political bodies.

Grant beneficiaries must clearly acknowledge the European Union's contribution in all publications or in conjunction with activities for which the grant is used.

In this respect, grant beneficiaries are required to give prominence to the name and emblem of the EP on all their publications, posters, programmes and other products realised under the co-financed project.

More information on the visual identity of the EP, notably the EP logo guidelines (graphic charter) and the terms of use of the EP logo by third parties, may be found on the website of the EP at the following address: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/downloadcentre/en/visual-identity>.

IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE MULTI-ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

In line with the above, the objectives of the EP's multi-annual grants programme are:

- to promote and multiply a better understanding of the identity, role and political nature of the EP as the only democratically elected EU Institution;
- to communicate the EP's active involvement in fields that matter to citizens;
- to disseminate information and promote dialogue about the EP's activities, notably with a view to the next European elections in 2019.

Project proposals submitted on the basis of the subsequent calls for proposals shall define their own objectives in line with the objectives of the programme. The outputs and outcome of the projects co-financed on the basis of the subsequent calls for proposals will be measured using the key performance indicators defined in the respective grant applications based (non-exclusively) on the list of key indicators provided in the guidelines for applicants, with a view to proving how and to which extent the projects contribute to the aforementioned objectives.

V. MULTI-ANNUAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AND GRANTS FOR MEDIA

The EP intends to award multi-annual partnership agreements covering the duration of the multi-annual programmes to certain media complying with the eligibility and selection criteria announced in the calls for proposals for partnerships.

For the purposes of this multi-annual work programme and the subsequent calls for proposals, "media" means:

- Television,
- Radio, and/or
- Online media

Applicants may submit a partnership application in accordance with the requirements of the multi-annual call for proposals for partnership which will set up the eligibility and selection criteria on the basis of which partners will be selected. Partnership application will include an action plan for the duration of this programme detailing the common objectives of the parties in compliance with the above mentioned objectives and the types of activities contributing to the achievement of those objectives.

Partnership applicants may submit a grant application in accordance with the annual calls for proposals for grants in the category of **media** which will set up the award criteria on the basis of which project proposals will be evaluated and selected. Only partnership applicants may apply for funding using their partnership ID number. It should be noted that only accepted partners may be selected for the award of a grant.

Co-financing of projects by the EP will be limited to a maximum of 60% of the project's total budget.

VI. GRANTS FOR EVENTS

The EP intends to award grants in the field of events on annual basis.

For the purposes of this multi-annual work programme and the subsequent calls for proposals, “events” means all types of events, online or offline (preferably with a web component), of a non-partisan nature, such as seminars, conferences, debates, discussion fora, exhibitions, competitions, cultural or sporting activities, aimed at providing a communication platform to citizens.

Applicants may submit a grant application in accordance with the annual calls for proposals for grants in the category of **events** which will set up the eligibility, selection and award criteria on the basis of which grant applications will be evaluated and selected.

It should be noted that no partnership is required in order to apply for a grant in the category of events.

Co-financing of projects by the EP will be limited to a maximum of 60% of the project's total budget.

VII. OTHERS

In exceptional and duly justified cases, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in situations referred to in Article 190 (c) and (f) of the Rules of Application of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the Union.

VIII. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE AND BUDGET (REVISED)

The indicative timetable for 2017 is as follows:

<i>Partnership in the MEDIA category</i>	
Publication of the call for proposals:	January 2017
Application deadline:	February 2017
Evaluation of applications:	February- March 2017
Notification of results:	April 2017
<i>Grants in the MEDIA category</i>	
Publication of the call for proposals:	March 2017
Application deadline:	May 2017
Evaluation of applications:	May-June 2017
Notification of results:	July 2017
Signature of grant agreements:	September 2017
Earliest start date of projects:	15 September 2017
Planned maximum duration of projects:	9.5 months
Evaluation of completed projects:	Final reports must be submitted by beneficiaries within 2 months following the end of the action
<i>Grants in the EVENTS category</i>	
Publication of the call for proposals:	March 2017
Application deadline:	April 2017
Evaluation of applications:	April-May 2017
Notification of results:	June 2017
Signature of grant agreements:	June 2017
Earliest start date of projects:	1 July 2017
Planned maximum duration of projects:	11 months
Evaluation of completed projects:	Final reports must be submitted by beneficiaries within 2 months following

	the end of the action
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The **indicative budget available** is as follows:

In 2017:

- Grants in the media category: **€ 3,870,000**

- Grants in the events category: **€ 850,000**

This indicative budget is expected to remain on the same scale in the following years, subject to the availability of corresponding funds in the EU budget.

Contact: Questions of clarification may be sent by e-mail to: dgcomm-subvention@ep.europa.eu. Questions drafted in English or French will receive a reply within 5 working days. It should be noted that this time-limit could be extended in case a translation from any EU official language to English or French would be required.