

EOI/SEC/02/2021 - PUBLIC CALL FOR IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS TO PROMOTE
SOCIAL RE-USE OF CONFISCATED ASSETS IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

Date of issuing: 22nd January 2021

Date of closure: 8th February 2021 – (12:00 CET – local Vienna Time)

Ref#: OSCE ExB Project n. 1102121 *“Strengthening the fight against transnational organized crime in South-Eastern Europe through improved regional co-operation in asset seizure, confiscation, management and re-use”*

In the efforts to promote among relevant national actors and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in South-Eastern Europe (SEE) the concept of asset recovery and the practice of social re-use of assets confiscated from organized crime, the OSCE seeks to hire as Implementing Partner (IP) one experienced and internationally active CSO engaged in promoting and implementing projects in the field of social re-use of confiscated assets, including in South-Eastern Europe. The main mission of the IP is **to contribute in promoting and raising awareness among CSOs and other relevant actors in SEE on the practice of re-using assets confiscated from organized crime for social purposes, while also delivering training activities to selected CSO with the end to stimulate their pro-active role in this specific field.**

The OSCE reserves the right to reject any or all applications received in response to this Public Call and to negotiate with any of the applicants in any manner deemed to be in the best interest of the OSCE.

1) Background information

Organized crime represents one of the biggest transnational threats to and a serious challenge for the countries across the OSCE region. Besides being drivers of illicit activities, criminal organizations have become an important economic player over the years. The importance of addressing the financial aspect of the organized crime in the efforts to effectively disrupt and dissolve serious and organized crime as well as to prevent the financing of terrorism, has been underlined by several OSCE Ministerial and Council Decisions¹. Targeting assets of the criminal organisations has proved indeed an effective strategy in preventing and repressing organized crime as it deprives criminals and their networks of financial power, thus limiting their ability to strengthen their criminal enterprise through corruption and reinvestment of profits in the legal and illegal economy. It also deters commission of further crimes, removing

¹ See for example MC.DEC/5/06; MC.DOC/2/12; MC.DEC/4/16; PC.DEC/1049; PC.DEC/1063

the incentive of financial gain and thus undermining the fundamental purpose of criminal organizations.

The OSCE ExB project: *“Strengthening the fight against transnational organized crime in South-Eastern Europe through improved regional co-operation in asset seizure, confiscation, management and re-use”* aims at improving the effectiveness of the fight against transnational organized crime by improving regional co-operation among five beneficiary countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. The project adopts an overarching approach to address the entire cycle of asset recovery by providing support in three areas of intervention: a) financial investigations, asset seizure and asset confiscation; b) asset management; c) asset re-use.

The call for an IP, which shall culminate in an IPA, is developed within the framework of the third component of the abovementioned project, namely the eventual fate of the confiscated asset. Albeit the sale of confiscated assets is the most common practice, such practice delivers very limited benefits to the public institutions and society at large. With that in mind, the third component of above project, and the IPA envisaged under its activity 3.5., are designated to promote the social re-use of confiscated assets among CSOs, policy makers and other relevant actors as a meaningful tool in the prevention of organized criminal activities which, contrary to the common practice, fosters a culture of legality by giving back to society what organized crime has deprived it of.

In order to foster the use of this type of final status of confiscated assets, it is necessary to raise the awareness of all the relevant actors, including CSOs, on the benefits this practice entails for the society as a whole, while also familiarizing them with the already existing models developed in other countries. Local communities must also be aware of the possibility to sustainably re-use confiscated assets and convert them in safe places that can be used for social, cultural and rehabilitation purposes.

However, raising awareness might not be sufficient for achieving effective results. This call for IPs and the IPA envisaged, recognize the necessity to conduct capacity-building activities to all relevant actors involved in the process of asset recovery and social re-use of confiscated assets, including policy makers, CSOs and national institutions. The IP shall dispose of necessary expertise to deliver such capacity-building activities at the national and regional workshops the OSCE will organize under the ExB. Project nr. 1102121.

Lastly, it is deemed extremely important to recognize the crucial role of the CSOs in the process of re-using confiscated assets for social purposes. Albania is one of few countries in the SEE region that counts with successful stories of social re-use of confiscated assets and hence active involvement of local CSOs. One of successful stories is “KeBuono” bakery in Fier: a social business which offers job opportunities and free professional training for youth, and combines thus economic sustainability and promotion of culture legality. The development of social entrepreneurship by using confiscated assets is, however, often restrained by various factors, including limited knowledge of the local CSOs on the practices and its benefits; scarce managerial and business skills; lack of models to be considered as good examples to replicate. To concretely and effectively address the challenges and constrains CSO might encounter in the process of re-using confiscated assets for social purposes, experienced and specialized CSO need to share their expertise, train selected local CSO and allow the successful models to be

replicated. Such training activities shall, among others, aim at stimulating the local CSOs to become more pro-active in this field.

2) Specific tasks of the implementing partners shall include:

In line with the ExB project's "*Strengthening the fight against transnational organized crime in South-Eastern Europe through improved regional co-operation in asset seizure, confiscation, management and re-use*" result number three and activity 3.5., the Implementing Partner shall support the relevant national actors and selected local CSOs to better understand and familiarize with the concepts of asset recovery and social re-use of confiscated assets, with the aim to foster their active involvement in this field, through capacity-building, training and individual mentoring activities.

To this end, and under the overall supervision of the Transnational Threats Department and the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the selected Implementing Partner shall engage in the project activities as follows:

1. Deliver capacity-building activities on social re-use of confiscated assets during the national and regional workshops in SEE organized by the OSCE under the project "*Strengthening the fight against transnational organized crime in South-Eastern Europe through improved regional co-operation in asset seizure, confiscation, management and re-use*";

The workshops will be organized by the OSCE, while beneficiaries of the event will be all the national actors involved in the asset recovery, including asset management agencies, relevant national institutions and CSOs. The role of the IP is to share its knowledge and experience in the field and contribute by familiarizing the selected participants with the practice of social re-use of confiscated assets and its overall benefits.

2. Develop and deliver two training/seminar activities to selected CSOs in Albania and North Macedonia and one regional training on: 1) social re-use of confiscated assets, best practices, lessons learned, existing models, and benefits the practice entails for the society as a whole; 2) development of sustainable social business plans and requests of assignment of confiscated assets to be submitted to Government Institutions;
3. Provide a mid-term narrative and financial report in line with and under the framework of the IPA signed with the OSCE (tentatively April);
4. Develop and conduct an awareness-raising and advocacy campaign promoting social re-use of confiscated assets among all relevant actors, including CSOs, and organize promotional events. To this end, the IP shall use the available promotional material developed under the project "*Strengthening the fight against transnational organized crime in South-Eastern Europe through improved regional co-operation in asset seizure, confiscation, management and re-use*", along with other relevant material in English. In particular, the IP shall:

- 4.1. Present a plan on how the public awareness campaign of social re-use of confiscated assets will be conducted;
- 4.2. Upon TNTD and OCEEA's approval of the plan, conduct the campaign and organize promotional events;
5. Provide the OSCE with narrative and financial reports for the above-described service, upon completion of activities and according to the schedule that will be specified in the Implementing Partner Agreement (tentatively mid-July).

3) Qualifications of the IP (mandatory requirements):

Applicants that will not provide the below mandatory requirements will not be evaluated.

Each applicant organization:

1. Shall be a non-profit internationally active civil society organization, engaged in promoting and supporting the role of civil society in the fight against and prevention of organized crime and active in the field of social re-use of confiscated assets;
2. Shall be registered in one of the 57 OSCE participating States;
3. Shall have expertise on social re-use of confiscated assets across the OSCE participating States;
4. Shall have necessary skills and expertise for developing and conducting awareness-raising campaigns;
5. Shall provide proven ability and expertise to deliver capacity-building activities on social re-use of confiscated assets;
6. Shall provide records of involvement in projects on social re-use of confiscated assets, including those developed as a result of projects funded by public or private donors;
7. Shall be competent to deliver constructive and tailor-based training and mentoring initiatives to local CSOs on social re-use of confiscated assets and sustainable entrepreneurship models for the benefit of the society, as well as on the necessary business skills;
8. Shall ensure a proficient use of the English language, including technical language related to the topic;
9. Minimum five years of experience in project management, training and capacity-building activities on the subject matter;
10. Shall ensure professionalism, transparency and accountability in managing funds provided by external entities.

Applicants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. In depth knowledge on the concept of social re-use of confiscated assets, and close familiarity with the benefits of the practice, existing models and best practices, as well as active involvement in developing and/or implementing projects in this field;

– 25 out of 100 points

2. Experience in developing and conducting awareness raising campaigns on social re-use of confiscated assets;

- 20 out of 100 points
3. Experience in providing professional, high-quality and tailor-made training activities to members of civil society organization on: social re-use of confiscated assets; development and proposal of social business plans; management of a social entrepreneurship;

- 20 out to 100 points
4. Experience in providing high-quality capacity-building activities on social re-use of confiscated assets and existing models to relevant actors involved in the process of asset recovery and social re-use;

- 10 out of 100 points
5. Experience in working with international organizations or donor agencies in development and implementation of projects in the area of social re-use of confiscated assets and/or social entrepreneurship.

- 10 out of 100 points
6. Budget to complete activities related to tasks described under no. 2) of the present Call

- 15 out of 100 points

3) The proposal should provide:

Technical Proposal (no prices should be included to the Technical Proposal):

- a) Supporting documentation, as requested under no. 6) below.

Financial Proposal:

- a) The Implementing Partner Agreement will cover 40,000 EUR for undertaking the tasks as per point 2).
- b) The Financial Proposal shall cover all expenses to be incurred for performing the services as specified including, but not limited to, the cost of the remuneration of the Bidder's personnel and all other compensations, insurance and social charges as well as technical assistance, supervision costs, and any other costs incurred by the contractor's personnel for the purpose of performing the services; and shall show a detailed cost breakdown per price categories;
- c) progress payment(s) based on the specific tasks described under no. 2) above and in particular: 80% upon signature of the contract; 20% upon approval of the final narrative and financial report.

As the OSCE is always interested in delivering products of the highest quality, the applicants are welcomed to present any suggestions or comments on how to improve the delivering of the requested services.

5) Entities eligible to apply:

- Non-profit and internationally active civil society organizations engaged in the fight against and prevention of organized crime, with proven knowledge on social re-use of confiscated assets;
- Applicants scoring below 80 will not be considered as eligible.

6) Supporting documentation:

Applicants shall provide information on their operational capacities:

- Registration certificate (accreditation)
- Statute (in English)
- Documentation proving experience in project management, especially in the field of social re-use of confiscated assets, in English;
- A list of key personnel who will be involved in the project with CVs
- Bank account details.

7) How to apply and the procedures to follow:

- This document

Applicants must apply in English. Hand-written applications will not be accepted.

Applications (Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal must be delivered in separate PDF files) must be delivered to tenders-at@osce.org on or **before 8th February 2021, 12:00 CET (local Vienna time)**.

Any application submitted after the deadline will be automatically rejected.

Please address all your queries or questions in writing to Laurence.roche@osce.org up to 5 working days before the submission deadline and kindly refrain from any telephone calls or personal visits.