

**PUBLIC CALL FOR IMPLEMENTING PARTNER ENGAGEMENT IN ORGANIZING SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMMES STIMULATING PRIVATE SECTOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN DEVELOPING NEW OPEN DATA BASED DIGITAL SOLUTIONS**

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**Date of closure:** 31 October 2022 – (17:00 CET)

**Period of engagement:** 15 November 2022- 31 March 2023

**Ref#:** IP-SEC/06/2022 – OSCE extra-budgetary project entitled *Promoting good governance and a positive business climate in the OSCE region through digitalization and the use of open data*

## 1. SUMMARY

Open data is a powerful element in among others monitoring government activities, fighting corruption and evaluating the results of public policy. For open data to have impact and value, it must be put to use. New innovative services and products created by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and businesses based on open data are on the rise. In Ukraine, the open data user community is vibrant since the open data policy (Cabinet of Ministers Decree 835) encourages the use of open data.

Currently Ukraine faces many challenges such as humanitarian and economic crises. Open data can provide powerful insights into overcoming these challenges. However, open data users face a number of challenges such as:

- Lack of financial resources for the development of new open data based digital solutions (product and services) aimed at increasing the efficiency and transparency of government work;
- Lack of capacity to adjust new products and services to the current situation in the country.

In this regard, the Office of the OSCE Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) is looking to collaborate with an NGO to carry out the small-grants programme for start-ups and civil society organizations that develop digital products serving public needs aimed at improving transparency and accountability of the government work through the digitalization of public services in Ukraine.

**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.**

## 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The open data market (in terms of economic value and number of jobs) is a crucially important and ever-growing economic opportunity, with a vast and growing number of companies involved in the disclosure and re-use of public sector information. The estimated economic impact from open data applications and use across the whole European Union, for example, involves hundreds of thousands of jobs and was estimated to be of the order of EUR 184 billion annually (in 2019). This number is

expected to grow substantially to around EUR 334 billion by 2025. Against the backdrop of the digitalization and use of technology in public policy, not least as a result the Covid-19 pandemic, it can be expected that open data and open government are going to play an even more central role throughout the OSCE region in the years to come in terms of enhancing good governance and improving the business and investment climate.

Open government initiatives promote transparency and accountability in the public sector. The use of open government initiatives and tools is uneven across the OSCE region, which provides a wide scope for learning and knowledge sharing. Therefore, the objective of the OSCE extra-budgetary project entitled *Promoting good governance and a positive business climate in the OSCE region through digitalization and the use of open data* is to increase the capacity of several OSCE pS to prevent corruption by strengthening transparency and improving public sector integrity and accountability of national authorities, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private sector through the use of open data and digital technologies. The project also aims to promote the use of open data as a powerful tool for fighting corruption, promoting a faster economic recovery and a positive investment climate.

Within this extra-budgetary project the OSCE co-operates with the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine (MDT) to promote the use of open data among civil society organizations and private businesses mainly by helping them in developing their own products contributing to the integrity of state institutions through re-use of open government data. Within this activity a nation-wide small grants programme is planned to be implemented in throughout five months (the last month should be used for reporting purposes).

Within this call for Implementing Partner (IP) engagement the OSCE seeks to implement in throughout five months (the last month to be used to finalize reportings), a nation-wide small grants programme for civil society organizations and private sector in Ukraine to identify and support in the development of the digital solutions based on open data, aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability of state institutions and at overcoming war-related challenges. In addition to the development of new open data based digital solutions the following should be reached:

- Popularization of creative civic technology approaches to increasing the level of civic involvement in Ukraine.
- Establishing partnerships between relevant public authorities, private and civil sectors.
- Intensification of information exchange and networking between local authorities, grassroots initiatives, and public activists.

### **3. Tasks and deliverables of the IP**

The selected Implementing Partner will be responsible for the development, organization and implementation of small-grants programme in Ukraine. The programme implementation will be coordinated with the Ministry of digital Transformation of Ukraine and the OSCE at all stages. The duration of the program shall be 5 months including:

- One month for the promotion of the program (creation of the promotional landing page and promotion of the program in national media and social media) and selection of the winners
- Three months for the development of projects by the winners and presentation of the projects
- One month for final financial and narrative reporting

**The Ministry of digital Transformation will support the programme by:**

- Communicating the programme: promotion of the program through the Ministry's social networks and through other official government communication channels
- Participation in selection of participants of the programme and the winners

Specific tasks for the selected Implementing Partner include:

- In co-operation with MDT announcement of the programme through media resources, this includes creation of the promotional landing page and promotion of the program in national media and social media
  - Sorting and pre-selection of the applications for final pitch before the jury consisting of the representatives of the MDT, OSCE and Implementing Partner. The applicants shall include businesses, start-ups, and non-profit or charitable organizations that want to develop/scale/improve visualization web-sites, chatbots or other digital tools based on open government data. The projects can be new features within existing products and services or completely new services. Competition criteria shall include:
    - a) Solutions that have a clear impact on the overcoming war-related challenges. Participants must demonstrate how their projects/products help in overcoming war-related challenges for the benefit of the Ukrainian society
    - b) Use of open government data specified in the national legislation of Ukraine
    - c) Innovative solutions. Projects to be evaluated based on their innovation. Projects can be completely new solutions as well as improving/updating/scaling existing solutions.
    - d) Development prospects. Organizations' ability to implement the project in a short period of time (no longer than three months) and to ensure its sustainable development and functioning in the future. At the same time, the proposed solution must meet today's demands.
    - e) A strong and inspired team. The level of the team's interest in their work and available competencies for project implementation are essential. In addition, the composition of the team must be two or more people.
- Organization of the pitching session for the finalists to present their products
- Once the winners announced financial administration of grants for winning teams. There should be at least three teams awarded with award sum not more than EUR 10,000 per team
- Organization of capacity-building activities for winners for the duration of the development phase of the programme including allocating three mentors/trainers for the teams to help in the finalization of their products
- At least one open data based digital solutions (new features within existing products and services or completely new services) contributing to increased transparency and

accountability of state institutions and/ or overcoming war- related challenges is acknowledged as completed by the jury at the end of the programme

- Logistical organization of the pitching sessions with juries, coordination of all capacity-building activities with winning teams, etc.
- Coordination with MDT and OSCE on all stages of the program

#### **4. Reporting**

The selected implementing partner will provide the OSCE with narrative and financial reports related to the implementation of the above tasks, as follows:

1. Once the selection of winners is finalized, not later than three (3) weeks upon completion of the selection, the IP shall provide electronically in English a mid-term narrative and financial report. The report shall include:
  - An executive summary, outlining the main points of the report
  - A brief description of the overall process such as promotion activities, the selection process and selection criteria
  - A mid-term financial report in line with the financial proposal (specifying the number of mentors and consultants to be hired)
2. Upon conclusion of the 3-month development process and not later than one month after finalization of the development processes, the IP shall provide electronically in English a final narrative and financial report. The report shall include:
  - An executive summary, outlining the main points of the report;
  - A detailed description of the overall process of the programme, including the following: the features of the selected teams; the description of each step of the development processes' supported by the Implementing Partner, including training and mentorship sessions, and how each team member contributed to each step of the process. A detailed description of the developed open data based digital solutions (new features within existing products and services or completely new services) specifying how they will be used to increase transparency and accountability of state institutions and/ or overcoming war- related challenges
  - A final financial report upon completion of activities and in line with the agreed financial proposal.

#### **5. Qualifications of the IP (mandatory requirements):**

Each leading applicant:

1. Shall be a no-profit organization, demonstrating minimum 3 years of professional capacity in digitalization, incubating and accelerating digital startups in Ukraine;
2. Shall be registered in Ukraine;
3. Shall provide electronically in English a brief description (technical proposal) of the organization. The description should include a presentation of entities and individuals together with roles and areas of expertise, involved in the implementation of the above tasks – including a budget estimate to complete tasks not exceeding EUR 49,900 (forty-nine thousand nine hundred Euros), an administrator responsible for the management of funds, experienced project team members including project manager, three trainers/ mentors

(including contact details and CVs) as well as the technical equipment available to carry out the above tasks;

4. Shall provide preferably a multicultural ecosystem where diversity, mutual respect, peer support, gender-sensitivity are appreciated and encouraged;
5. Shall ensure the use of the English language of the project manager involved;
6. Shall ensure professionalism, transparency and accountability in managing funds provided by external entities

## 6. Evaluation of Applicants

Applicants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Experience in organizing incubation and acceleration programmes for digital start-ups in Ukraine;  
– 40 out of 100 points
2. Quality, diversity and experience of project team members including project manager, trainers/ mentors (please enclose CVs)  
  
- 20 out to 100 points
3. Records of transnational projects and partnerships, particularly those envisaging management of funds provided by external entities  
  
- 20 out of 100 points
4. Quality of the description and cost-effectiveness of the budget to complete activities related to the Section 3 of the present Call  
  
- 20 out of 100 points

## 7. Proposal

**The project proposal should provide:**

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

a) A brief description on the approach to the delivery of the above-mentioned tasks, including the proposed implementation and the respective timeframe.

Supporting documentation, as requested under 6) below.

**Financial Proposal:**

a) 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 IP's personnel and all other compensations as well as other direct costs such as travel costs – if any - incurred by the IP for the purpose of performing the services; and shall show a detailed cost breakdown per price categories;

b) progress payment(s) based on the specific tasks shown under the Section 3 above and suggested to be: 40% upon signature of the IP; 40% upon approval of the mid-term narrative and financial report; 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 the programme.

## 8. Entities eligible to apply:

Ukrainian non-profit organizations that:

- Have strong experience in providing high-level/professional incubation and acceleration programmes for digital start-ups in Ukraine;
- Have an extensive record of work in Ukraine;
- Are able to operate and produce documents (reports in particular) in English;
- Have experience in managing externally funded activities.

## 9. Supporting documentation:

Applicants shall provide information on their operational capacities as follows:

- Registration certificate (accreditation)
- Statute (in English) demonstrating the non-profit nature of the entity
- Documentation proving experience in organizing and delivering incubation and acceleration programmes for digital start-ups
- A list of key teaching/training personnel and mentors of sub-grantees who will be involved in the project with CVs
- CV of administrator of funds
- Short description of similar programmes organized, including partner organizations and donor sources
- Bank account details

## 10. How to apply and the procedures to follow:

The Public Call documents are available on request by e-mail to: [ipcalls-at@osce.org](mailto:ipcalls-at@osce.org).

The Public Call documents include:

- This document;
- Acknowledgement letter - ANNEX A. Upon receipt of this EOI, you are kindly requested to return the attached Acknowledgement Letter (Annex A) not later than **27 October, 17:00 CET (local time)** [ipcalls-at@osce.org](mailto:ipcalls-at@osce.org).

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

Applications (Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal) must be delivered in ***separate, password protected PDF files*** to [ipcalls-at@osce.org](mailto:ipcalls-at@osce.org) on or before **31 October, 17:00 CET (local time)**.

Any application submitted after the deadline at **17:00 CET on 31 October, 2022** will be automatically rejected.

Please address all your queries or questions in writing to [ipcalls-at@osce.org](mailto:ipcalls-at@osce.org) up to 3 days before the submission deadline and kindly refrain from any telephone calls or personal visits.