

**@CP-ICT Frequently Asked Questions**  
**[updated: 13 June 2008]**

**Question:** I am writing to you in order to kindly ask you to provide us with more information regarding the definition of Lot 1 – “actions focusing on research, knowledge-management, knowledge-sharing and learning networks”. Is it possible to give us more information on what is meant by the phrase “actions focusing on research, knowledge-management, knowledge-sharing and learning networks”.

**Answer:** Actions should encourage intra-ACP collaboration, and should therefore favour the establishment of networks for collaboration between ACP member states: whether these are research networks, knowledge-management networks, knowledge-sharing networks or learning networks. In other words, actions focussing on pure “research” would not be encouraged, but actions to establish or consolidate “research networks” would certainly be eligible.

**Question:** the present is to ask you if Universities can apply to the call EuropeAid/127057/D/ACT/Multi as partners or coordinators of a project.

**Answer:** Yes, Universities are eligible as partners or coordinators.

**Question:** I'd like to know what is the meaning of "regional, sub-regional or national-level institutions" in the sentence "Activities will be carried out by regional, sub-regional or national-level institutions to provide locally-appropriate capacity-building for ICT strategy, policy and regulation". Does it refer to regional/local authorities or to supranational-level institutions (at the level of the region ACP)? Are local authorities eligible?

**Answer:** “Sub-regional” refers to supranational level institutions (i.e. comprising a number of ACP member states). Local authorities, as national-level institutions, are however eligible, and “local government organisations” are explicitly mentioned as possible beneficiaries under Lot 2. That is: (i) “regional” means ACP regions such as SADC, CEMAC, ECOWAS, or a number of countries (at least two) from two different regions, (ii) “sub-regional” means a number of countries within the same region, and (iii) “national” means within one whole country.

**Question:** I would like to know what is meant by “Regional and sub-regional institutions”. Are these institutions from within the same single ACP member state, or are they institutions at the level of ACP regions (i.e. entities comprised of several member states in an ACP region)?

**Answer:** See previous response.

**Question :** Concerning Lot 1, “actions focusing on research, knowledge-management, knowledge-sharing and learning networks”. Does this include actions focussing on research only? To what extent can they be focussed on infrastructure, and be targeted at a single country?

**Answer:** No, actions should not be focussed primarily on pure research; they should rather encourage the creation of research networks between several ACP member states.

**Question:** We would like to know if this proposal could meet the ACP-ICT goals. We can send you a more formal pre-proposal if it can help you.

**Answer:** We are not able to provide technical guidance on specific programme proposals. But applicants whose proposals meet the criteria set out in the Call for Proposals are encouraged to apply.

**Question:** Firstly, being the case that we are a biological research and germplasm storage facility, our work being mainly in plant biology and teaching of international students, is it likely that our development falls under the ICT banner? Secondly, the guidelines prohibit the purchase of land and (existing?) buildings under the eligibility of costs section 2.1.4. We seek to build a facility (currently non-existing), which would be the "direct implementation of the action" and would assumably be allowed under this grant. Is this correct?

**Answer:** On the first question, point 2.2.4 of the Guidelines to Grant Applicants states: "*In the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the Contracting Authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, a partner or an action*". On the second question, infrastructure costs are ineligible for funding under the Programme.

**Question:** I would like to have more deeper information on the point 2.1.4 regarding contribution in Kind because of some contradictions in the sentences and what we have to provide as own fund - Is it based on staff cost or cost of structure.

**Answer:** The Application Form states: "*The cost of staff assigned to the Action is not a contribution in kind and may be considered as co-financing in the Budget of the Action when paid by the Beneficiary or his partners*". Staff costs are **not** treated as a contribution in kind; so they do not have to be listed as such. But they may be considered as co-financing, which means they may count as part of the applicant's contribution (which must be a minimum of 15%).

**Question:** After reading carefully the chapter relative to the contributions in kind, we would like to have some explanations about the nature of those contributions - usually it is staff costs in other EU programs (salaries + add-on taxes) and we would like to be sure of the right meaning, or does it mean that staff costs are not accepted as co-funding and if we have 85 % allocation + 7 % overheads we must provide 8 % in cash?

**Answer:** See response immediately above.

**Question:** When you specify the eligible category of "non-governmental organisations", does this include associations based on French law 1901, and is an institution of higher education eligible?

**Answer:** Point 2.2.4 of the Guidelines to Grant Applicants states: "*In the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the Contracting Authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, a partner or an action*".

**Question:** In Lot 1, what is meant/expected by actions focusing on research?

**Answer:** Actions should not be focussed primarily on pure research; they should rather encourage the creation of research networks between several ACP member states.

**Question:** Although you speak of “countries”, I presume regional institutions such as USP would be eligible to submit proposals since our education service delivery, information management etc benefit all our 12 member countries? Secondly, our satellite learning network is operating in all our 12 member countries, serving individual students from each of the 12 countries – would enhancements to this learning network qualify for a submission to this programme.

**Answer:** Point 2.2.4 of the Guidelines to Grant Applicants states: "*In the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the Contracting Authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, a partner or an action*".

**Question:** I would be obliged if you could inform me if a network of local governments in one ACP country would be supported in Lot 2.

**Answer:** Point 2.2.4 of the Guidelines to Grant Applicants states: "*In the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the Contracting Authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, a partner or an action*".

**Question:** Is it possible to work with Higher Education institutions in this new call, or is it limited to government institutions? Is it therefore possible to have a project on ICT4Development with a set of ACP Higher Education institutions?

**Answer:** Point 2.2.4 of the Guidelines to Grant Applicants states: "*In the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the Contracting Authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, a partner or an action*".

**Question:** 1) Can both ACP and European countries be financed by the programme? Can the EU partners receive directly the funds? 2) The guideline related to eligibility of partners underlines that the number of partners that are EU nationals must not exceed the number of partners that are ACP nationals but it is not clear about the partition of the funds. Do constraints exist about the partition of funds among partners or among countries? If they exist, which is the eligible partition for countries (for example, 50% for ACP and 50% for EU partners)?

**Answer:** 1) Both ACP and EU countries may be financed under the Programme, and the main applicant (ie the recipient of the funds) may be from either the EU or the ACP. 2) There is no strict rule about the partition of funds between partners.