

<p>ANNEX C9: Standard Twinning - Publication of the Call for Proposals on the Internet</p>
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TWINNING CALL FOR PROPOSALS
issued by the European Commission

1. Publication reference

EuropeAid/177740//DD/ACT/ME

2. Programme and Financing source

Project title:

Strengthening Capacities in Agricultural and Rural Development Sector for CAP Implementation, Twinning reference: MN 21 IPA AG 01 23

Programme title:

Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA 2021-2027);
Annual Action Plan in favour of Montenegro 2021, Direct Management,
IPA III/2021/043-663/4 Action plan composed by actions in the areas of Environment,
Transport, Agriculture plus EU Integration Facility and EU Reform Facility

3. Nature of activities, geographical area and project duration

(a) Short description (5 lines) of planned objectives: the general objective is to increase the competitiveness of the Agricultural and Rural Development sector of Montenegro. The specific objective is to gradually build an agricultural sector capable of competing with market forces, while progressively aligning with the CAP and EU legal framework in the field of agriculture and rural development

(b) Geographical area: Montenegro

(c) Maximum project duration: 30 months

4. Overall amount available for this Call for Proposals

EUR 1.9 million

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

5. Eligibility: Who may apply?

Only Public Administrations and Mandated bodies as per Twinning Manual of European Union Member State may apply through European Union Member States' National Contact Points.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

6. Provisional notification date of results of the award process¹

30 October 2023

SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

7. Selection and award criteria

Selection criteria consider the **operational capacity of the Component leaders** mentioned in the proposal: Member State Project Leader, Resident Twinning Adviser and Component Leaders; the assessment is expressed on a **Yes/No** basis and a single negative evaluation of one criterion disqualifies the proposal.

Award criteria consider the **merit of the main qualifying aspects** of the proposal and are evaluated applying a **scoring system (1 to 5)**:

Selection and award of the Member State will be based on an evaluation of several qualitative aspects including but not limited to the proposed methodology, the experience of the proposed RTA and PL, the experience of the administration in cooperation projects and the Member State presentation, etc.

See Annex C6 of the Twinning Manual: Administrative compliance and Eligibility grid and Annex C7 of the Twinning Manual.

APPLICATION FORMALITIES

8. Twinning proposal and details to be provided

Twining proposals must be submitted by the Lead Member State Administration to the **EU Member States National Contact Points for Twinning** following the instructions of the **Twining Manual** which must be strictly observed (including the use of the template).

Only one Twinning proposal for Member State can be submitted by the **Member State National Contact Points for Twinning** to the Contracting Authority within the deadline for applications.

The MS application should be submitted to the Contracting Authority via the email address of Member State National Contact Points for Twinning.

¹ "The Contracting Authority communicates the choice of the selected Twinning partner at the latest within two weeks after the date of the selection meetings", as per page 40 of the Twinning Manual.

9. Deadline for applications

Deadline for submission of Twinning proposals by the National Contact Points to the Contracting Authority: 29 September 2023, 16:00 CET..

The deadline for submission of Twinning proposals by the EU Member State Public Administrations to the corresponding National Contact Point is decided by the latter.

Any application received by the Contracting Authority after this deadline will not be considered.

10. Detailed information

Detailed information on this Call for Proposals is contained in the Twinning Manual and the specific project Twinning Fiches, which are available at the European Union Member States **National Contact Points for Twinning**.

The tentative date(s) envisaged for starting the evaluation committee meetings is: 2 October 2023.

The Member State delegation should always include the proposed PL and RTA(s).