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Call for assessors

for the Interreg VI-A Hungary–Slovakia Programme

CFA-HUSK-2501

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Introduction

The Joint Secretariat of the Interreg VI-A Hungary-Slovakia Programme on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary and Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic is launching Call for assessors to select qualified and experienced professionals to join the Programme's Pool of Assessors.

The Interreg VI-A Hungary-Slovakia Programme operates within the 2021-2027 financial framework of the European Union as a part of the Cohesion Policy. The overall aim of the Programme is to eliminate administrative and legal obstacles on the Hungarian-Slovak border, build up mutual trust between the citizens of Hungary and Slovakia and to make the border region more competitive, inclusive and environmentally friendly. These aims are transformed into different specific objectives described in the Interreg Programme document. External assessors are expected to have high-level, professional experience respective to these objectives. The present Call is addressed to individuals for the establishment of a pool of independent, qualified and experienced experts to support the Managing Authority, National Authority and the Joint Secretariat in the selection process of operations. The present Call can be extended or can be reopened with prior agreement of Managing Authority and National Authority.

The Pool of Assessors created based on this Call will only include the candidates fulfilling the requested minimum requirements and meeting the selection criteria. Only the assessors registered in the Pool of Assessors can take part in the assessment process as external experts. Please note that being registered in the Pool of Assessors does not imply any obligations to award a contract to the successful candidates.

Thematic fields of evaluation

Action 1.1.2 - Short supply chains

- The selected action contributes to the creation of short supply chains involving food producers, processors and consumers in close geographical and social relations committed to cooperate for local economic development. The proposed actions contribute to broaden opportunities and the knowledge related to short supply chains with a special view to the contemporary requirements for nutrition, nutrition awareness and state-of-the-art food production. The action supports among others cross-border initiatives that
- improve knowledge and skills required for business development and product development for local food producers and processors;
- create, maintain and grow local food systems, structures and short supply chains;
- provide branding, labelling and promoting farmers, food producers and of local products;
- improve the infrastructural background of public and economic operators responsible for food processing and marketing of products.

Action 2.1.1 - Social innovations for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups

The proposed actions contribute to the fulfilment of social needs that are not met or that are met insufficiently, in respect of combating poverty and social exclusion and promoting a high level of quality and sustainable employment, guaranteeing adequate and poverty-preventing social protection. The action supports the development or adaption of social innovations which can be products, services or models

addressing unmet social needs more effectively. The action supports among others cross-border initiatives that

- strengthen cross-border institutional co-operation of competent institutions and authorities via elaboration of cross-border strategies, plans and policies;
- increase the competitiveness of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups on the labour market;
- involve disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in training and life-long learning activities;
- improve working conditions of organizations employing disadvantaged and vulnerable groups;
- develop social enterprises creating social value in an entrepreneurial, market-oriented way;
- design and adapt innovative solutions representing new methods and approaches based on new knowledge, experiences and expertise;
- strengthen social cohesion, inclusion and participation by ensuring access to social, recreational and cultural activities;
- reduce isolation and maintain social networks and contribute to personal fulfilment;
- involve local communities through awareness-raising and educational campaigns.

Action 2.2.1 – Inclusive and quality education

The proposed action contributes to investment in education in order to ensure the citizens' right to quality and inclusive education, training and lifelong learning that develops their key competences and basic skills. The Programme supports actions eliminating the negative effects of the disruption to the provision of education, training and mobility opportunities for learners, teachers and educators caused by measures taken to tackle the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The action supports among others cross-border initiatives that

- strengthen cross-border institutional co-operation of competent organizations;
- improve monitoring and evaluation systems showing the progress of the schools;
- provide training for school staff and enhance the availability and use of good quality learning tools and resources;
- adapt good practices and resources for introducing collaborative approaches in schools to improve inclusivity and provide equal opportunities;
- prevent early school leaving and to engage early school leavers in education and training;
- develop digital educational tools including those targeting the improvement of digital literacy, new approaches, methodologies;
- upgrade and modernise educational infrastructure, thereby improve the learning environment for students and working conditions for teachers;
- implement prevention programs and awareness raising campaigns of health issues among students and their families (e.g. drug use, cyber dangers, bullying etc.).

Action 2.3.1 – Family and community-based health care services

The proposed actions improve solidarity between generations in an ageing society creating conditions which enable older people to take better charge of their own lives and to contribute to economy and society, and to live in dignity as full members of society. Large segregated residential institutions cannot ensure person-centred services and appropriate support needed to bring about full inclusion for people with disabilities, mental health problems and older people. The proposed actions eliminate the physical

separation of these citizens from communities and families and enable them to participate fully in their community and wider society by the development of family and community-based health care services.

The action supports among others cross-border initiatives that

- strengthen cross-border institutional co-operation of competent organizations and authorities via elaboration of joint policies, strategies and plans;
- promote research and innovation to improve the lives of people with disabilities, people with mental health problems and older people;
- improve services enabling people working outside of health facilities discharging their services at the individual, family or community level;
- promote e-inclusion and e-health and technological and ICT innovations (e.g.: telemedicine);
- introduce innovative therapeutic methodologies in developing motor, sensory and cognitive skills of older adults;
- promote disease prevention and early diagnosis throughout the lifecycle, as well as rehabilitation, leading to active and healthy ageing and independent living;
- involve local communities through awareness-raising and educational campaigns.

Action 2.3.2 - Cross-border development of healthcare institutions

The proposed actions facilitate border crossing, that encourages the mobility of patients and health professionals and develop access to high-quality health care services in the cross-border area. The action supports among others cross-border initiatives that

- strengthen co-operation of competent organizations and authorities via elaboration of joint policies, strategies, plans, methods and studies;
- promote cross-border health services that enables border crossing mobility of patients and health professionals;
- develop access to high-quality health services through the use of new equipment, shared services and joint facilities in the cross-border area;
- use of telecommunications technology for medical diagnostic, monitoring, and therapeutic purposes;
- promote know-how transfer between relevant organizations particularly in relation to pandemic crisis and its effects.

Tasks to be accomplished

Task of the **external assessor** is to support the Managing Authority, National Authority and the Joint Secretariat in the selection of operations via ensuring the necessary thematic expertise relevant for the specific objective. This task includes the followings activities:

- participation on briefings and trainings organized by the Joint Secretariat;
- acquaintance of relevant programme documents (e.g. Interreg Programme, Application package, Methodology and criteria for selection of projects etc.);
- participate in setting up of the terms and conditions of the Call for proposals with professional contributions;
- content-wise and financial assessment of project proposals as follows:
 - appraise each criterion of the assessment grid with a score accompanied by a clear qualitative statement in English language justifying the given score;

- appraise the financial request of the Applicants according to the principles of the sound financial management;
- discuss the assessment with other assessors in the frame of a consensus meeting;
- provide further additional comments at the request of the JS;
- provide assistance to the Monitoring Committee;
- assist the complaint handling procedure if necessary.

Professional requirements

External assessors are expected to have professional experience in the above-described thematic fields.

External assessors must have

- bachelor's or master's degree relevant to the action of the Programme
- at least 5 years' professional experience acquired in positions related to the selected thematic field and
- excellent analytical and evaluation skills.

Assets

- possess sound knowledge of the national legislation of the field professional expertise;
- have a sound knowledge of cross-border cooperation and/or EU Funds and/or project implementation;
- be fluent in speaking, reading and writing in English;
- be proficient in either Hungarian or Slovak;
- have proper IT literacy necessary to complete the assignment;
- be independent from any Programme bodies and Programme project applicants or beneficiaries involved in the call for proposals.

Prior experience in assessment of project proposals under national, European or international funding programmes as well as under programmes directly managed by the European Commission is considered as an advantage.

Other terms of the assignment

Briefing meetings and trainings with the Joint Secretariat will take place in Budapest at the premises of the Joint Secretariat or may be done on-line. Experts will be required to carry out their tasks remotely using their own tools at their habitual working place. The assessment of the assigned applications shall be performed and finalised online via Interreg+ monitoring system according to a time schedule as agreed with the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat. The project proposals subject to the assessment will be available online in the INTERREG+ monitoring system of the Programme.

The assessor shall participate in setting up of the terms and conditions of the Call for proposals with his/her professional contributions. The consultations about the call can take place at the premises of the Joint Secretariat or may be done on-line. This task shall take maximum 5 expert days, for which the assessor is entitled to a fee of 150 € (VAT excluded) per expert day.

The number of project proposals which will be assigned to an expert may vary depending on the thematic scope and number of proposals received and will be agreed between the expert and the MA/JS. The assessor is entitled to a fee of 150 € (VAT excluded) per each project.

To ensure the independence of the quality assessment, prior to the signature of the contract the selected expert has to sign a declaration of impartiality certifying that there is no conflict of interest exists and that they undertake to inform the MA/JS if any situation of conflict, even potential, or external attempt to interfere occurs while carrying out their duties. Personal data submitted by the experts will be only used for the participation to the selection procedure and for the possible signature of a contract with the MA/JS.

Application

Applications must include the following documents:

- professional CV;
- cover letter, describing the experience, qualifications, skills and motivation to perform the tasks with the reference to the relevant action;
- scanned copies of diplomas and certificates in national languages;
- further documents proving their skills.

In the documents, candidates must provide evidence that they possess the required skills, sufficient professional experience and expertise in specific areas. The Managing Authority reserves the right to ask the candidates fulfilling requirements for participating in personal interviews as well. Applications not including all the above-mentioned documents will be rejected.

Deadline for sending the applications is **28/02/2025 | 23:59CET**. The documents shall be sent electronically to the e-mail address: application@interreghusk.eu. Please indicate in the subject the following text: **“HUSK-2501-CFA”**

When submitting an application within the Interreg VI-A Hungary-Slovakia Programme as a natural person (referred to: the Person) the Person gives consent that within the Interreg VI-A Hungary-Slovakia Programme for its implementation the personal data provided by the Person shall be handled in line with the relevant national and EU regulations. The condition for submitting an application within the Interreg VI-A Hungary-Slovakia Programme is to understand and accept the present privacy policy.

Applicants fulfilling requirements and selection criteria will be assessed by the Selection Committee composed by the Managing Authority, National Authority and Joint Secretariat. Selection process will be conducted based on the criteria set by the current Call for Assessors. Applicants will be informed about the result of the selection process via e-mail in due time.

Selected applicants will be included into the Pool of experts. Please note that being registered in the Pool of Assessors does not imply any obligations on JS and Széchenyi Programme Office Nonprofit LLC. regarding the assignment of project proposals to the selected assessors.