



CALL FOR PROPOSALS – HOME/2014/PPXX/AG/SPBX

NEW INTEGRATED MECHANISMS FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ACTORS TO IDENTIFY SPORTS BETTING RISKS

1. INTRODUCTION – BACKGROUND

The Pilot Project is designed to test the feasibility of the envisaged action and its usefulness. It is implemented without a basic act in line with Article 54(2) of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (hereinafter Financial Regulation)¹.

In conformity with Article 84 of the Financial Regulation the Commission has adopted, on 3 October 2014, the financing decision in form of the 2014 Work Programme for the implementation of the Pilot Project on the New integrated mechanisms for cooperation between public and private actors to identify sports betting risks, which includes this Call for Proposals.

The financing decision sets out the main objectives of the Pilot Project, which are to ensure the integrity of sport events in relation to sports betting, to reduce corruption in this field and to prevent betting from being used for criminal purposes.

2. OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

In this context, the present call for proposals aims at funding projects on the **cooperation between public and private actors to identify sports betting risks**.

Match fixing poses a serious threat to the integrity of sports and sees an increasing involvement of international organised criminal groups. Cooperation between public and private actors is crucial to identify major risks that match fixing and corruption pose to the integrity of sport. Moreover, transnational financial flows resulting from sports betting are increasingly exploited by criminal groups for money laundering purposes. Therefore a stronger cooperation is imperative to combat effectively these phenomena.

A range of expertise and experience should be combined in order to establish new integrated mechanisms that could involve cooperation between public authorities, in particular law enforcement, online and offline betting operators, gambling organisations, gambling regulators and sports stakeholders. Enhanced information sharing between private actors and law enforcement authorities, as well as between police forces from different Member States, could lead to better prevention and faster response to suspicious activities at both national and international level.

Project applications submitted under the call for proposals must address at least one of the **following priorities**:

- to ensure the integrity of sport events in relation to sports betting;
- to reduce corruption in relation to sports betting;
- to prevent betting from being used for criminal purposes.

¹ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

To meet these priorities, project applications should achieve one or more of the **following outcomes**:

- research from qualified sources (such as online and offline betting operators, gambling organisations, sports bodies, gambling regulators and law enforcement authorities) in order to determine the extent or modalities of organised crime infiltration in betting;
- development of risk indicators for organised crime infiltration in betting to be used at both national and EU level;
- enhancement of information sharing and cooperation between private operators and police forces and between law enforcement authorities of different Member States;
- identification of sports events (such as type of games, championships, timing of the season) that could be targeted by corrupt athletes, other sport stakeholders and/or criminals for match fixing purposes, including by monitoring the media, the internet and social networks;
- warnings to all stakeholders about specific risks of match fixing by disclosing information in an appropriate and timely manner;
- support to competent authorities in undertaking investigations, where necessary, both within sport and in criminal circles;
- creation of working groups or round tables at national or international level to promote the exchange of views and best practices between stakeholders;
- establishment of mechanisms for anonymous reporting, possibly to national contact points.

Any actions under this Call for Proposals shall respect and shall be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Applications should pay appropriate attention to the effects of the project on individual rights and freedoms, as well as to possible remedies.

3. TIMETABLE

	Stages	Date and time or indicative period
a)	Publication of the call	18/12/2014
b)	Deadline for submitting applications	11/02/2015 – 12:00 CET
c)	Evaluation period	February – June 2015
d)	Information to applicants	July/August 2015
e)	Signature of Grant Agreement	Autumn 2015
f)	Starting date of the action	Late 2015

4. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of projects is estimated at **EUR 1.800.000**.

The Commission reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available.

5. ADMISSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applications must be sent no later than the deadline for submitting applications referred to in section 3.

Applications must be submitted in writing using the Application Form provided (including all parts of the Application Package) and the PRIAMOS electronic submission system (see section 12).

Applications must be drafted in one of the EU official languages. English is preferred in order to speed up the evaluation procedure.

Applications seeking EU co-funding of less than EUR 100.000 will be rejected.

Projects cannot be scheduled to last more than 18 months.² Applications for projects scheduled to run for a longer period will be rejected.

Failure to comply with these requirements will lead to the rejection of the application.

6. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

6.1. Eligible applicants

In order to be eligible for a grant, the Applicant and the Co-applicants must:

- be legal persons;
- be a public body, a private entity or international organisation.

The Applicant and Co-applicant must be established in an EU Member State, or, if that is not the case, be an entity whose mandate includes activities related to sport at the EU or Europe-wide level (e.g. sports federations, associations, other umbrella organisation active on sport matters); such entities shall only be eligible for activities carried out within the EU or at EU level.

Applications must involve at least two entities established in two different countries or in the same country if one is a public and one is a private entity; in any case at least one of the countries must be an EU Member State.

Affiliated entities, i.e. legal entities having a legal or capital link with Applicants, shall take part in the action as individual Co-applicants in order to declare eligible costs.

Supporting documents: In order to assess the Applicants' eligibility, a Declaration of Honour, which must be printed out, signed by the authorised signatory and included (as a scanned document) in the Application Package, must be provided by the Applicant (Annex 1) and each Co-applicant (Annex 2). Other supporting documents may be requested at a later stage.

6.2. Eligible activities

Among others the following types of activities are eligible under this Call for Proposals:

- a) analytical, monitoring and evaluation activities, including threat, risk and impact assessments;
- b) projects promoting networking, public-private partnerships, mutual confidence, understanding and learning, identification and dissemination of best practices and innovative approaches at Union level, training and exchange programmes;
- c) projects supporting the development of methodological tools and methods and common indicators;
- d) particularly innovative projects developing new methods and/or deploying new technologies with a potential for transferability to other Member States.

² The project duration may be extended during its implementation for duly justified reasons subject to the Commission's approval via an amendment to the Grant Agreement.

7. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the Call for Proposals procedure and from the grant award if they are in any of the situations referred to in articles 131(4) of the Financial Regulation, i.e. one of the following situations:

7.1. Exclusion from participation in the Call for Proposals

- (a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (b) they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment of a competent authority of a Member State which has the force of res judicata;
- (c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify including by decisions of the EIB and international organisations;
- (d) they are not in compliance with their obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of Belgium or those of the country where the action is to be implemented;
- (e) they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering or any other illegal activity, where such an illegal activity is detrimental to the Union's financial interests;
- (f) they are currently subject to an administrative penalty for: being guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the Commission as a condition of participation in a procurement or grant award procedure or for failing to supply this information; or having been declared to be in serious breach of its obligations under grant agreements or contracts financed by the Union's budget.

7.2. Exclusion from award

Applicants will not be granted financial assistance if, in the course of the grant award procedure, they:

- (a) are subject to a conflict of interest in connection with the action;
- (b) are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the Commission as a condition of participation in the grant award procedure or fail to supply this information;
- (c) find themselves in one of the situations of exclusion, referred to in section 7.1.

Administrative and financial penalties may be imposed on Applicants and Co-applicants who are guilty of misrepresentation.

Supporting documents: In order to evaluate Applicants against exclusion criteria, a Declaration of Honour must be provided by the Applicant (Annex 1) and each Co-applicant (Annex 2) certifying that they are not in one of the situations described above. Annex 1 and Annex 2 must be printed out, signed by the relevant authorised signatory and included (as a scanned document) in the Application Package.

8. SELECTION CRITERIA

8.1. Financial capacity

Applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period during which the action is being carried out and to participate in its funding.

Financial capacity will be assessed on the basis of the following values and ratios:

1. The Applicant and Co-applicants should show positive results for the following values:
 - net result (profit/loss)
 - their share of grant requested/operating income
 - their share of grant requested/assets
 - own funds
 - gross operating profit/loss.
2. The Applicant and Co-applicants will be assessed against the following ratios:
 - general liquidity: current assets/current liabilities
 - financial independency: own funds/(total liabilities + own funds)
 - indebtedness: own funds/(own funds + long-term liabilities)
 - profitability: gross operating profit/operating income
 - self-financing capacity: net result + amortisation + depreciation.

In case of low financial capacity, the Commission may decide the following:

- request further documents;
- request budget modifications / reallocations of costs.

In case of insufficient financial capacity, the Commission may decide the following:

- request a change of Co-applicant;
- reject the application.

Supporting documents: The Applicants' financial capacity will be assessed on the basis of a Declaration of Honour to be provided by the Applicant (Annex 1) and each Co-applicant (Annex 2) which must be printed out, signed by the authorised signatory and included (as a scanned document) in the Application Package, as well as the following supporting documents to be submitted with the application:

- completed Financial Capacity Form (MS Excel file - Annex 4);
- the profit and loss account and the balance sheet for the last financial year for which the accounts were closed (Annex 5).

For newly created entities, the business plan including the starting financial statement may replace the above documents.

In addition, for Applicants and Co-applicants applying for grants \geq EUR 750.000, an audit report produced by an approved external auditor certifying the accounts for the last financial year available must be provided.

The financial capacity assessment is not applicable to public bodies and international organisations. Therefore they do not need to submit any supporting documents for financial capacity.

8.2. Operational capacity

Applicants must have the professional competencies as well as appropriate qualifications necessary to complete the proposed action. This capacity shall be assessed based on the experience of the Applicants and each Co-applicant or, as an alternative, on the relevant experience of their directly involved employees.

Supporting documents: The Applicants' operational capacity will be assessed on the basis of a Declaration of Honour to be provided by the Applicant (Annex 1) and each Co-applicant (Annex 2), which must be printed out, signed by the authorised signatory and included (as a scanned document) in the Application Package, as well as the following supporting documents to be submitted with the application:

- a lists of previous EU funded projects and activities implemented by the Applicant and Co-applicants in the last 4 years (to be indicated in the Application Form, section 2.2)
- or, where the Applicant or Co-applicant have not carried out any EU funded projects, a list of projects (similar in size and resources managed to the one described in the application) carried out by the Applicant and Co-applicants (Annex 6)
- or, where the Applicant or Co-applicant have not carried out any relevant project, the curriculum vitae and/or description of the profile of the people primarily responsible for managing and implementing the project activities (Annex 6).

This assessment is not applicable to public bodies and international organisations. Therefore they do not need to submit any supporting documents for operational capacity.

9. AWARD CRITERIA

Eligible applications will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

- **Conformity:** applications will be assessed on the extent to which they match the priorities and expected outcomes as identified in this call for proposals (section 2 above) and in the relevant EU strategic documents and/or action plans, and on whether the expected impact will be significant on the selected priority(ies) (30 points)
- **Quality of the proposed action:** applications will be assessed with regards to the appropriateness of their design and planned implementation, taking into account the envisaged activities, methodology, organisation of work and strategy for project management, evaluation and dissemination (20 points)
- **Cost-effectiveness:** applications will be assessed with regards to whether the costs of the proposed action are adequate to the activities and proportionate to the expected results (30 points)
- **European added value:** the project activities, outcomes and impact should have a broad EU relevance; applications will be assessed on whether a suitable number of countries is involved in the project activities and on whether the expected impact will concern a significant number of countries (20 points).

Applications that pass the threshold of 65 points will be considered for funding within the limits of the available budget. The European Commission will then prepare a so-called "award decision" listing the projects proposed for award.

10. LEGAL COMMITMENTS

A Commission award decision does not represent a legal or financial commitment. The award of each grant is subject to the conclusion of a Grant Agreement in writing.

In the event a grant is awarded by the Commission, a Grant Agreement, drawn up in euro and detailing the conditions and level of funding, will be sent to the Coordinator, as well as instructions on how to formalise the obligations of the parties.

Please note that the award of a grant does not establish any entitlement for subsequent years.

11. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

11.1. General Principles

a) Non-cumulative award

An action may only receive one grant from the EU budget.

In no circumstances shall the same costs be financed twice by the Union budget. To ensure this, applicants shall indicate the sources and amounts of Union funding received or applied for the same action or part of the action or for its functioning during the same financial year as well as any other funding received or applied for the same action (Application Form, section 2.1 and 2.2).

b) Non-retroactivity

No grant may be awarded retrospectively for actions already completed. A grant may be awarded for an action which has already begun only where the Applicant can demonstrate the need to start the action before the Grant Agreement is signed. In any case, costs eligible for financing may not have been incurred prior to the date of submission of the grant application.

c) Co-financing

Co-financing means that the resources which are necessary to carry out the action may not be entirely provided by the EU grant.

Co-financing of the action may take the form of:

- the Beneficiary's own resources,
- income generated by the action,
- financial contributions from third parties.

d) Balanced budget

The Budget Estimate of the action is to be attached to the Application Form. It must have revenue and expenditure in balance and must be drawn up in euro.

Beneficiaries with general accounts in a currency other than the euro shall convert costs incurred in another currency into euro at the average of the daily exchange rates published in the C series of Official Journal of the European Union, determined over the corresponding reporting period.³ Where no daily euro exchange rate is published in the Official Journal of the European Union for the currency in question, conversion shall be made at the average of the monthly accounting rates established by the Commission and published on its website (http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/infoeuro/infoeuro_en.cfm), determined over the corresponding reporting period.

Beneficiaries with general accounts in euro shall convert costs incurred in another currency into euro according to their usual accounting practices.

Where the implementation of the action requires the award of procurement contracts (implementation contracts), the Beneficiary must award the contract to the bid offering best value for money or the lowest price (as appropriate), avoiding conflicts of interests and retain the documentation for the event of an audit. Detailed information on subcontracting is provided in the Guide for Applicants.

³ For further guidance on exchange rate please consult the Guide for Applicants.

e) Financial support to third parties

The applications may not envisage provision of financial support to third parties.

f) Non-profit rule

EU grants may not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit within the framework of the action. Profit shall be defined as a surplus of the receipts over the eligible costs incurred by the Beneficiary, when the request is made for payment of the balance. In this respect, where a profit is made, the Commission shall be entitled to recover the percentage of the profit corresponding to the Union contribution to the eligible costs actually incurred by the Beneficiary to carry out the action.

11.2. Maximum amount requested

The EU grant is limited to a maximum co-funding rate of 90% of the total eligible costs of the action.

Consequently, part of the total eligible expenses entered in the Budget Estimate must be financed from sources other than the EU grant (see section 11.1.c).

The Commission reserves the right to reduce the estimated costs in the Budget Estimate, if they are deemed as ineligible.

11.3. Payment arrangements

A pre-financing payment corresponding to 80% of the EU grant amount will be transferred to the Coordinator after the signature of the Grant Agreement by both parties and in accordance with its terms.

The Commission will establish the amount of the final payment to be made to the Coordinator on the basis of the calculation of the final grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, the Beneficiaries will be required to reimburse the amount paid in excess by the Commission through a recovery order.

12. PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications must be submitted electronically via the PRIAMOS system in accordance with the formal requirements set out under section 5 and by the deadline set out under section 3, after which the system will not accept any application.

No modification to the application is allowed once the deadline for submission has elapsed. However, if there is a need to clarify certain aspects or for the correction of clerical mistakes, the Commission may contact the Applicant during the evaluation process. Failure to respond by the deadline set may lead to rejection of the application. Applicants must take the necessary steps to ensure that they can respond rapidly until the end of the selection process.

Applicants are requested to log in at the PRIAMOS system at http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/priamos-section/index_en.htm and follow the procedure for submitting an application.

Note that if an Applicant wants to submit more than one application under the same Call for Proposals, a different Application Form must be downloaded for each application, so that each application has its unique application number.

Please note that although the PRIAMOS system is able to deal with many applications at the same time, it is advisable NOT to wait until the last moment to register in the system and submit an application.

Applications submitted via the PRIAMOS system shall not be sent by regular mail or by e-mail. Applications that are not submitted via PRIAMOS shall not be considered for evaluation.

Applications must be submitted using the forms and templates provided. If the forms or templates are altered, the application may be rejected.

The Application Package to be uploaded in PRIAMOS

Please **use the Checklist** and **read carefully the Guide for Applicants** for details and explanations concerning the compulsory documents to be uploaded in PRIAMOS as a complete Application Package.

Each Application Package must include **ALL the following compulsory documents:**

Application Package
Application Form (Pdf)
Description of the Action (MS Word)
Budget Estimate (MS Excel)
Annexes 1-7

ANNEXES	Description	To be provided by
Annex 1	Declaration of Honour	Applicant
Annex 2	Partnership Declaration	Each Co-applicant
Annex 3*	Associate Partnership Declaration	Each Associate Partner
Annex 4*	Financial Capacity Form (Excel)	Applicant and each Co-applicant. Not applicable for public bodies and international organisations
Annex 5*	Balance sheet and profit and loss account or business plan	Applicant and each Co-applicant. Not applicable for public bodies and international organisations
Annex 6*	List of projects or CVs	Applicant and each Co-applicant. Not applicable for public bodies and international organisations
Annex 7*	Audit report	Applicant and/or Co-applicant requesting a grant higher than EUR 750.000. Not applicable for public bodies and international organisations

* if applicable

All the templates of the Application Package are attached to the pdf Application Form – see PRIAMOS Guide for Applicants.⁴ The Application Form is ONLY available for download in PRIAMOS while all the templates of the Application Package (except the Application Form itself) can also be found on the Call for Proposals' webpage at: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/security-and-safeguarding-liberties/other-programmes/cooperation-between-public-private/calls/2014/ppxx-ag-spbx/index_en.htm , together with the Guide for Applicants.

Applicants are advised to consult the Call for Proposals webpage regularly during the period leading up to the submission deadline in case announcements, updates or frequently asked questions are published.

Applicants will be informed in writing about the results of the selection process.

Contacts

Questions may be sent by e-mail to: HOME-ISF@ec.europa.eu indicating clearly the reference of the Call for Proposals. The Commission shall reply according to the code of good administrative behaviour within 15 working days from the receipt of the question. In the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the Commission cannot give a prior opinion on

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/priamos-section/index_en.htm

the eligibility of Applicants or actions or on the outcome of the Call for Proposals before the official announcement of results.

13. PUBLICITY

13.1. By the Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries must clearly acknowledge the European Union's contribution in all publications or in conjunction with activities for which the grant is used. Please refer to the Grant Agreement for more details.

13.2. By the Commission

All information relating to grants awarded in the course of a financial year shall be published on an internet site of the European Union institutions no later than the 30 June of the year following the financial year in which the grants were awarded. The Commission will publish the following information:

- name and address of the beneficiary,
- subject of the grant,
- amount awarded.

Upon a reasoned and duly substantiated request by the Beneficiary, the publication shall be waived if such disclosure risks threatening the rights and freedoms of individuals concerned as protected by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union or harm the commercial interests of the beneficiaries.

14. DATA PROTECTION

The reply to any Call for Proposals involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data requested are required to evaluate the application in accordance with the specifications of the Call for Proposal and will be processed solely for that purpose by the department responsible for the EU programme concerned. Details concerning the processing of personal data are available on the privacy statement at:

http://ec.europa.eu/dataprotectionofficer/privacystatement_publicprocurement_en.pdf

Personal data may be registered in the Early Warning System (EWS) only or both in the EWS and Central Exclusion Database (CED) by the Accounting Officer of the Commission, should the beneficiary be in one of the situations mentioned in:

- the Commission Decision 2008/969 of 16.12.2008 on the Early Warning System (for more information see the Privacy Statement on: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legal_entities_en.cfm), or
- the Commission Regulation 2008/1302 of 17.12.2008 on the Central Exclusion Database (for more information see the Privacy Statement on: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/protecting/protect_en.cfm).

15. MEANS OF REDRESS

If, at any stage of the administrative treatment of grant applications, the persons or entities concerned consider that they have been affected by an instance of maladministration, they may, irrespective of any other means of redress, make a complaint to the European Ombudsman in accordance with Article 228(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and as provided by the Parliament Decision of 9 March 1994 on the regulations and general conditions governing the performance of the Ombudsman's duties published in Official Journal L 113 of 4 May 1994.