



EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL AND SMES  
EXECUTIVE AGENCY (EISMEA)

Department I – Innovation ecosystems, SMP/ Entrepreneurship and Consumers  
Unit I-03 SMP/Internal Market and Consumers

Brussels,

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**Call for Proposals: “Union market surveillance campaigns and associated activities, including resources and equipment, IT tools and training”  
SMP-IMA-2021-MS-CAA-2711-12367**

**Questions & Answers (Q&A)**

**Info session on 06/10/2021, 14:30, Webex**

**Questions received on 13/09, 15/09, 17/09, 24/09**

QUESTION 1	
<b>Q1</b>	Could you please clarify how the payment are going to be organized for beneficiaries: when the first payment and of what amount (%) is foreseen? Are there any possibilities for other interim payments before the final balance payment?
<b>A1</b>	<p><i>Please refer to the Call Document, article 10, part ‘Reporting and payment arrangements’:</i></p> <p><i>“After grant signature, you will normally receive a pre-financing to start working on the project (float of normally <b>50% of the maximum grant amount</b>, [e.g. 50% from 1,257,000 €] ; exceptionally less or no pre-financing). The pre-financing will be paid <b>30 days from entry into force/10 days before starting date/financial guarantee (if required)</b> — whichever is the latest.</i></p> <p><i>There will be no interim payments.”</i></p> <p><i>Based on the above no other interim payments under the call are envisaged.</i></p>
QUESTION 2	
<b>Q2</b>	<p>The main purpose of our potential project would be revision and modernization of our current IT system used for market surveillance activities, including the integration or any other interface between the national market surveillance system and the European one (ICSMS).</p> <p>Before submitting the application we would need to find out whether the project costs could cover the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the technical analysis (feasibility study) of the current IT tool used for market surveillance with the view of upgrading it taking into account the best practices of other EU countries, potential interface with other IT systems of national authorities (e.g. customs, tax authority) and a possibility to use the elements of artificial intelligence;</li><li>• drafting of technical specification providing the details of the upgraded IT tool and its capacities (necessary for public procurement of the services);</li><li>• actual implementation of the project.</li></ul>
<b>A2</b>	<p><i>Please refer to the Call for Proposals document (<a href="https://eismae.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities/calls-proposals/union-market-surveillance-campaigns-and-associated-activities_en">https://eismae.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities/calls-proposals/union-market-surveillance-campaigns-and-associated-activities_en</a>), the Section 2 of it is describing in details the activities that can be funded and all which the proposal must include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Task 1 - data collection,</i></li><li>- <i>Task 2 - analysis and recommendations for actions,</i></li></ul>

	<p>- Task 3 - implementation of actions</p> <p>Also please be informed that once a proposal complies with the requirements stated in the Section 5 of the Call for Proposals it'll be subsequently evaluated by an evaluation committee.</p>
<b>QUESTION 3</b>	
<b>Q3</b>	<p>We have a question specifically regarding the option of subcontracting tasks. As we read the conditions for the call for proposal, beneficiaries of the grant are not allowed to produce a profit generated by the action. However, we wonder if this also applies to subcontractors? For example if certain tasks of the action are subcontracted to a third party, is this third party not allowed to generate revenue on the services delivered?</p>
<b>A3</b>	<p>As regards subcontracting , please refer to the text of the Model Grant Agreement document (p.19), published as part of the Call for Proposal. Please note the highlighted parts:</p> <p><b>B. Subcontracting costs</b></p> <p><b>Subcontracting costs</b> for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges, such as non-deductible or non-refundable value added tax (VAT)) are eligible, if they are calculated on the basis of the costs <b>actually incurred</b>, fulfil the <b>general eligibility conditions</b> and are awarded using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure subcontracts with <b>best value for money</b> (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is <b>no conflict of interests</b> (see Article 12).</p> <p>Beneficiaries that are 'contracting authorities/entities' within the meaning of the EU Directives on public procurement must also comply with the applicable <b>national law on public procurement</b>.</p> <p>Subcontracting may cover only a <b>limited part of the action</b>.</p> <p>The tasks to be subcontracted and the estimated cost for each subcontract must be set out in Annex 1 and the total estimated costs of subcontracting per beneficiary must be set out in Annex 2 (or may be approved ex post in the periodic report, if the use of subcontracting does not entail changes to the Agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants; 'simplified approval procedure').</p> <p><i>Additionally, as regards the profit the following is valid (Call for Proposal document, p.14):</i></p> <p><i>"Grants may NOT produce a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). If eligible, for-profit organisations must declare their revenues and, if there is a profit, we will deduct it from the final grant amount (see art 22.3)."</i></p>
<b>QUESTION 4</b>	
<b>Q4</b>	<p>Could you please clarify if the indicated budget of €1.257.000 is estimated for the whole call SMP-IMA-2021-MS-CAA-2711-12367? Or is it a maximum amount per one proposal?</p>
<b>A4</b>	<p>Please refer to the text of the Call for Proposal document:</p> <p><b>3. Available budget</b></p> <p><b>The total budget</b> earmarked for the co-financing of projects under this call for proposals is estimated at <b>EUR 1 257 000</b>.</p> <p>The Commission expects to fund <b>one project</b>, for 90% of the total eligible costs.</p> <p>Therefore the answers are 'YES' to both of your questions.</p>