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RESPONSE & RENEWAL

GRANT PROGRAMME

GUIDANCE NOTE

**CALL FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES
UNDER EU RESPONSE &
RENEWAL PROGRAMME
FOR M4EG MEMBERS IN
UKRAINE AND MOLDOVA
2022-2023**



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BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

The **EU Response & Renewal Programme** is a new component under the Mayors for Economic Growth (M4EG) Facility.

The M4EG is a joint EU and UNDP initiative, funded by the EU, to support **secondary cities in the Eastern Partnership become active facilitators for sustainable, inclusive economic growth** and job creation. The M4EG develops and implements an **innovative approach to understanding and managing complexity**, systems thinking and portfolio design for local authorities to define their needs and solve complex problems by collaborating with different stakeholders, experimenting and testing different solutions and learning from each other, which falls within the overall frame of “strategic innovation”.

More information can be found at <https://eum4eg.com>

With the ongoing war in Ukraine, the M4EG have had to pivot to support the new realities of the local authorities in Ukraine and Moldova. The Response & Renewal Programme launches now a **Call for Local Initiatives among members** in Moldova and Ukraine struggling with the negative impacts of the ongoing war and aimed at:

- 1 Immediate response and recovery** - including responses to the needs of people (IDPs and refugees) whose houses, jobs and businesses were destroyed or affected by the war and small-scale restoration of infrastructure and services, which are critical for the functioning of the local economy and the well-being of residents; and
- 2 Renewal and anticipation** - intends to support local authorities impacted by the war to get on track with their sustainable development pathways and lay foundations for economic recovery, future sustainable growth and modernization of cities and communities.



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FOCUS AREAS OF CALL

The new programme builds on the Agora Framework and “Urban Makeover” already embedded in the M4EG approach and seeks to support key stakeholders in immediate response and long-term recovery & renewal. Two lots will be available under the Call of Local Initiatives in fall 2022.

Both lots are open to Moldovan and Ukrainian members.

The examples in both Lot 1 and Lot 2 are not meant to be exhaustive. All suggested interventions will be evaluated based on the set criterion, including considering ongoing or planned support by UNDP and other actors, including existing cash assistance programmes, needs assessments, which local authorities are or will be supported through other initiatives, and the like, to avoid duplications and assess synergies. Risk management and conflict sensitivity lens will be applied to any intervention.



Rivne, Ukraine

Oksana, UN Community Volunteer under M4EG in Rivne, gives pastries to displaced children

Lot 1

RESPONSE & IMMEDIATE RECOVERY

The funding range for each proposal: EUR 30,000-50,000 (no co-financing required). Intends to support the immediate needs of people (IDPs and refugees) whose houses, jobs and businesses were destroyed or affected by the war and small-scale restoration of infrastructure and services, which are critical for the functioning of the local economy and the well-being of residents, within the M4EG Local Authorities.

Needs have been identified within the following categories:

Individual & Household level

Addressing the difficulty of individuals and households within the local authority who are trying to adjust into or back into social and economic life in a city/community that has been directly affected by the crisis.

Examples of interventions

Home & Shelter: provide immediate and direct support to households to either settle back in the city to make it feel "home" again or IDPs and refugees' temporary and medium-term shelters as a 'temporary home'. Ensuring or improving shelters, and other basic needs for IDPs and refugees (supporting small-scale initiatives to strengthen the functionalization of shelters and other short- and medium-term housing for IDPs and refugees, could be misc. procurement of supplies, internet access, light infrastructure).

Work & Business: support short and medium-term economic/jobs/self-employment recovery by generating conditions and creating infrastructure for workspaces (e.g., by supporting municipally-owned local enterprises), supporting reinstatement of supply chains, direct support to MSMEs, farmers, and entrepreneurs, self-employed. Identification of skills needs and building capabilities (including skilling, reskilling, upskilling, skills recognition) where there is demand/need, among returnees, IDPs, and refugees.

City & Community level

Help to re-start a local economy by addressing the immediate needs in the city on the ground, regarding the city structures (smaller intervention around energy, water, mobility, administration, waste, safety structures, etc.), and the immediate capacity needs of local authorities.

Examples of interventions

Urban environment: small-scale cleaning up the city after liberation, shelling, small repairs of multi-apartment buildings and neighbourhood improvement using nature-based solutions and/or public services that would support the integration of IDPs and refugees.

Institutions & capabilities: support crisis coordination and decision-making in local authorities (data, knowledge management, volunteer schemes, UNDP Sensemaking Protocol etc.). Demand-driven needs assessments at the town/city level.

Lot 2

RENEWAL AND ANTICIPATION

**The funding range for each proposal:
EUR 70,000 – 100,000 (at least 20% co-financing required).**

Intends to support local authorities impacted by the war to get on track with their sustainable development pathways and lay foundations for economic recovery, future sustainable growth and modernization of cities and communities. This lot will emphasize the opportunities that may come in a crisis, to re-imagine the role of local authorities and possible solution pathways for an economically and socially thriving town or city space within the planetary boundaries. Recognizing that our traditional planning instruments and institutions have a relatively short time frame and mindset, inter-generational thinking and activities to strengthen capabilities to anticipate change can also be supported.

Individual & Household level

Supporting longer-term integration of individuals and households (IDPs, refugees, returnees) and their interaction with members of host communities, including how people are communicating and economically linked to one another (e.g., doing business together, exchanging information, form cooperatives, purchasing groups, etc.).

Examples of interventions

Home & Shelter: aid supportive structures that surround the "home" and a feeling of belonging - the community or neighbourhood (social cohesion and solidarity), education, health, and high-quality services. Support the rebuilding of homes, and re-use of structures for shelters with a whole-of-place and community integration focus. Support small-scale urban infrastructure for economic development initiatives (e.g., creating or improving the infrastructure for tourism) using climate-smart and nature-based solutions, social cohesion initiatives between IDPs, refugees and host community to foster a stronger sense of home and belonging and joint economic activities and closer ties.

Work & Business: help local authorities and partners explore new trajectories of growth and employment without further stretching the planetary boundaries, support "future of work" initiatives; new online working presence; create virtual or physical marketplaces or matchmaking platforms to bring new job and business opportunities; support new value chains and industries.

City & Community level

Support smaller-scale renewal initiatives of the built environment in a sustainable manner to create more inclusive and vibrant places that attract, including supporting the re-building of old and sunk infrastructure. To facilitate, communicate and bring the presence of the "city" to outside beyond its city boundaries, connecting external partners and bringing knowledge and engagement to the city system. Helping local authorities build their capabilities on social listening, sensemaking, and future crisis management and anticipation.

Examples of interventions

Institutions & Capabilities: Support inclusive economic recovery planning and programming in line with sustainability principles. City 2 City support and capability sharing, within Ukraine and within Moldova (many LAs in the M4EG network have lessons to share on IDP and refugees response and coordination that have been requested by others to share), and with twinning cities in Europe.

Urban environment: Community-based initiatives creating the space for new economic activities and green jobs (e.g., eco-friendly delivery services, renewed public spaces for commerce, food courts, sustainable mobility etc.) possible collaboration with architecture studios like <https://www.balbek.com/reukraine-eng> Foresight/future scanning and readiness exercises can also be included.



SELECTION PROCESS

Eligibility

The members of the M4EG in Ukraine and Moldova (local authorities) are eligible to apply. Partners of members, such as local CSO/NGOs and academia, can apply in partnership with the local authority/member of M4EG. The private sector can be engaged through secondary procurement as per the proposed intervention.

Application and assessment process

Interested members of Mayors for Economic Growth network in Moldova and Ukraine will submit an application through an announced Call for Local Initiatives. The link application form will be shared by the Moldova and Ukraine UNDP Country Offices to the members in the country, and the form will be in Romanian and Ukrainian respectively.

The tentative timeline of the planned application and assessment process:

- 1** Mid- October 2022: Launch a Call for Local Initiatives/Proposals among M4EG members in Ukraine and Moldova.
- 2** Mid-November 2022: Submission deadline for proposals. The application (see below) will be light in nature and run by the M4EG Secretariat (UNDP) in Ukraine and Moldova in national languages.
- 3** November 2022: initial review of proposals by UNDP. The initial review will shortlist proposals in line with the criteria, and the M4EG Secretariat may reach out to applicants for clarifying questions. The Secretariat will in this stage also coordinate within national, including UN structures, to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure the most alignment to national objectives and context.
- 4** December 2022: Secretariat submits shortlisted proposals (translated to English, compressed version) to the Selection Committee.
- 5** End-December 2022: wide announcement of selected proposals/local authorities. UNDP carries out capacity assessments and contracting.



EVALUATION

Only shortlisted applications will be evaluated by the Selection Committee, which consists of higher technical level staff at the European Commission, the EU Delegations in Ukraine and Moldova, and UNDP at the Regional Hub in Istanbul and Ukraine and Moldova.

The Selection Committee will prioritize supporting local authorities that are relatively harder to reach or have received relatively less support from international actors.

Eligible and complete applications will be evaluated according to evaluation criteria as follows:

1

ALIGNMENT AND RELEVANCE

25 points

Alignment to the two lots and intension of the M4EG Response and Renewal Programme, and relevance vis a vis local plans and objectives.

Weak relevance – 1 to 10 points

Medium relevance 11 to 17 points

Strong relevance 18 to 25 points

2

LOCAL OWNERSHIP

20 points

Implemented by local entities and for the local population. In case a partner (private or public) is submitting a proposal, evidence of local authority support and partnership needs to be shown.

Weak relevance – 1 to 9 points

Medium relevance 10 to 15 points

Strong relevance 16 to 20 points

3

3. Capability & feasibility 20 points

Proven capability to implement through showcasing similar ongoing or previous seed-funds. The proposal is feasible (from the economic, social, technical, and financial points of view) within the given -time period.

Weak relevance – 1 to 9 points

Medium relevance 10 to 15 points

Strong relevance 16 to 20 points



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INNOVATION & DEMONSTRATION EFFECT

15 points

Proposal is meant to demonstrate new methods to address the issue(s) beyond “business as usual” and has potential for scale-up or absorption in local or national context.

Weak relevance – 1 to 6 points

Medium relevance 7 to 10 points

Strong relevance 10 to 15 points

5

ASSET: PARTNERSHIP

10 points

Cross-sectoral partnership collaboration, including private sector engagement.

Weak relevance – 1 to 4 points

Medium relevance 5 to 7 points

Strong relevance 8 to 10 points

6

ASSET: CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

10 points

Conflict sensitivity, gender equality and human rights) are key components in the proposal.

Weak relevance – 1 to 4 points

Medium relevance 5 to 7 points

Strong relevance 8 to 10 points

DISQUALIFICATION MOLDOVA PORTFOLIO

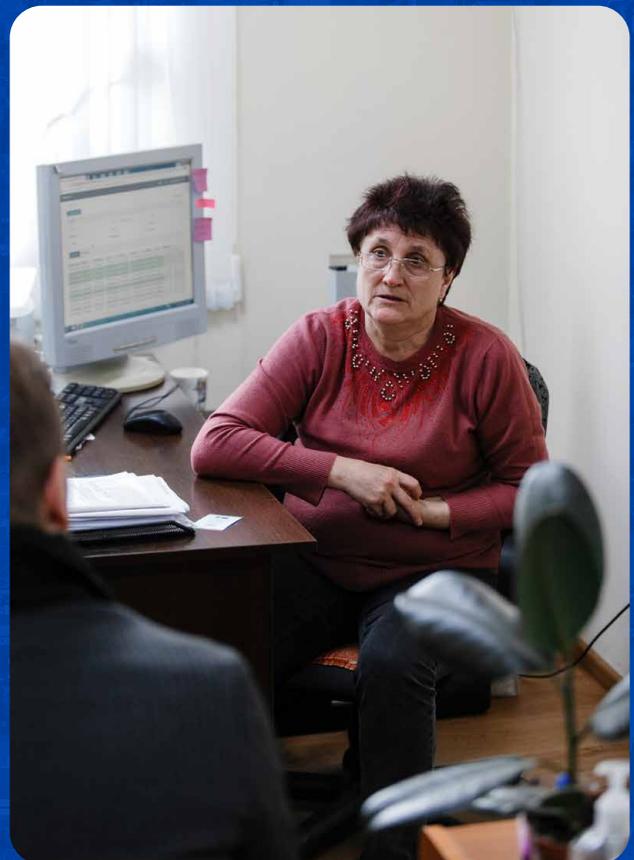
Only proposals that intends to directly support refugees will be considered.

DISQUALIFICATION UKRAINE PORTFOLIO

Only proposals that intends to directly support internally displaced persons (IDPs) or local war-affected population will be supported.

DISQUALIFICATION LOT 2

Proof of matching funding of minimum 20% (through local, national and international actors, including through the existing public budget, allocated human resources or similar)



Moldova

Moldova Refugee Response



IMPLEMENTATION

The successful applications will be contracted in line with UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP). This would entail a capacity assessment of the implementing Local Authorities or civil society partners. Depending on the intervention, a Social and Environmental Risks assessment and a Communication Plan will be required. The templates of the Social and Environmental Screening and the Communication Plan will be shared with the selected applicants together with the notification of being selected.

The templates for reporting (both narrative and financial) will be shared as part of the contract package. Disbursement of funds will be made as per milestone deliverables specified in the respective contract.

Successful applicants will be introduced to sensemaking methodology and communicate engagement/social listening tools once part of the Programme. More information will follow.



Further information

Information meetings on Call for Local Initiatives

There will be at least one online plenary session in each country where all interested active members are welcome. The date of these information meetings will be communicated to the national networks by the respective country Secretariats. The information meetings will have a questions and answers session for potential applicants.

Additional questions can also be sent to the respective country coordinator as per the below list of contacts.

M4EG Secretariat – UNDP Country Contact Point:

MOLDOVA

Valentin Croitoru, M4EG Country Lead
valentin.croitoru@undp.org

UKRAINE

Mustafa Sait-Ametov, M4EG Country Lead
mustafa.sait-ametov@undp.org

REGIONAL

Tina Stoum, Regional M4EG Project Manager
tina.stoum@undp.org



Annex APPLICATION TEMPLATE

Section I. General Information and setting the intention

Your (working) vision/intent statement for municipal transformation (max 100 words)	
Name of Municipality or territorial community, oblast	
URL /webpage and email, official Facebook page	
Contact information of the person who will be the lead coordinator for the application	
Contact information of the person who will be the lead coordinator for the application	
Name	
Organization/Position title	
Mailing address	
Mobile phone number	
Email	
Briefly describe the key challenge to your municipality addressed by your project proposal	
Which diverse groups of population are targeted in your suggested project (from gender, age, relocation status and other identity perspectives)?	



Section 2. Eligibility Questions

<p>Are you a member of the M4EG in one of these countries: Moldova or Ukraine? Y/N</p>	
<p>Which lot of the Response and Renewal Programme you are applying for? Lot 1 (Response) or Lot 2 (Renewal)</p>	
<p>Please describe the purpose and main activities of your proposed intervention. Provide clear evidence that it is aligned with the overall intention and specific purpose of the respective Lot of the Response and Renewal Programme. (max 1,000 words)</p>	
<p>Please describe which local entities and implementing partners will be involved into implementation and what will be their roles. Which other entities or partners will be involved? (max 300 words)</p>	
<p>Please explain relevant capabilities of the main applicant. What skills, knowledge, partnerships/network and the like can you as applicant bring forward to make positive effects with the funding? (max 300 words) Please, provide at least 2 examples of relevant experience (e.g. recovery or development projects implemented) within the last 36 months</p>	



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Please briefly describe the project's expected effects with key quantitative and qualitative targets. If possible, please, mention how many final beneficiaries (both direct and indirect) disaggregated by sex, age and relocation status will benefit from the intervention (max 300 words)

Please elaborate why your intervention effects can be sustainable and will continue generating benefits for the targeted population after the project end (max 200 words)

Cross-sectoral partnership collaboration, including private sector engagement (max 200 words)

Cross-cutting themes (conflict sensitivity, gender equality and human rights) (max 100 words)

What is the total budget for your planned intervention (in EUR) and which share of it (in %) is expected to be covered from the Response and Renewal Programme (in form of co-financing or in-kind contributions). What are the other sources of funding of the intervention and what are their shares in the budget (%)? Evidence of commitment to provide co-funding can be requested at the later stages of the proposal evaluation. (Max 100 words)