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MAYORS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

EU RESPONSE &RENEWAL

GRANT PROGRAMME FOR M4EG

The Republic of Moldova and Ukraine

CONTEXT

The war in Ukraine is inflicting immense human suffering and devastating communities.

The war has caused the fastest forced population movement since the Second World War. Nearly one third of the population of Ukraine – close to 14 million people – have now fled their homes. Of this total, over 6.5 million Ukrainians have crossed the borders and are living as refugees abroad, while over 8 million are internally displaced within the country.

In the Republic of Moldova, the war in Ukraine is affecting the country in multiple ways and has significantly increased its levels of political, economic, social and environmental fragility. A protracted war in Ukraine could result in a socio-economic crisis in Moldova, with long-term implications in terms of multidimensional poverty.

Local authorities in both countries are at the forefront of the crisis response to the war and the felt realities of residents and the internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees.

> *The EU's support to Ukraine is unwavering. We stand by its brave people with our hearts, our minds, and our deeds.*
>
> **Ursula von der Leyen**
> President of the European Commission proposes beyond €1 billion tranche of macro-financial assistance to Ukraine
> 7 September 2022

> *As I have stated time and time again, this invasion is a violation of the territorial integrity of Ukraine and of the United Nations Charter. The war brought (numerous) deaths, massive destruction and displacement, and dramatic violations of human rights. People need peace. Peace in line with the United Nations Charter. Peace in line with international law.*
>
> **António Guterres**
> Secretary-General of the United Nations, opening remarks to the Press, Lviv, Ukraine 16 August 2022

WHAT?

To scale-up support to local authorities in Ukraine, the European Commission through the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) offers direct support to city and town authorities that are members of the Mayors for Economic Growth (M4EG) network in Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova (hereinafter Moldova) amounted to EUR18.

The "EU Response and Renewal Grant Programme for M4EG" will be established with a light fund structure.

The Grant Programme will announce at least one Call for Local Demonstration initiatives aimed at revitalization and recovery of local economies and communities of cities impacted by the war.

HOW?

The Grant Programme has two lots:

1

Response & Immediate Recovery – funding range for each proposal: EUR30,000 – 50,000

(no co-financing required)

Lot 1:
RESPONSE & IMMEDIATE RECOVERY

Intends to support the immediate needs of people (incl. 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. Needs have been identified within the following categories:

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.).

In particular, we are looking at interventions:

- To support for well-being of citizen's emotional and mental health, especially for youth, women and elderly groups
- To provide social and educational support for youth
- To support households for basic needs including food, shelter, safety, etc.
- To build joint initiatives and campaigns to provide needs of families and households collectively

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.

In particular, we are looking at interventions:

- To directly support micro and small enterprises in the local economy
- To provide reskilling and upskilling programs for the economy and the community
- To support and build participatory mechanisms for citizens and community for rebuilding the city
- To support immediate needs of the city and its structures using innovative approaches
- To support immediate capacity needs of local municipalities

2

Renewal & Anticipation – funding range for each proposal: EUR70,000 – 100,000

(at least 20% co-financing required)

Lot 2:
RENEWAL & 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. This lot emphasize the opportunities that may come during or after 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.).

In particular, we are looking at interventions:

- To support social cohesion and integration of IDPs, refugees
- To support inclusive work environment for IDPs, refugees, returnees, especially for women
- To create and support communal spaces for the households to build social networks and engagements such as communal garden, shared kitchen, etc

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.

In particular, we are looking at interventions:

- To support start-ups and re-orient MSMEs for the local economy
- To explore and build green and circular business models for the city
- To restore and rebuild city's brand and identity
- To build and support social and cultural activities for the city
- To support and build participatory mechanisms for citizens and community for rebuilding the city

WHO?

Members of the M4EG network in Moldova and Ukraine are applicable for participation in the Call for Local Initiatives/Proposals. Partners of members, such as local CSO/NGOs and academia, can apply in partnership with the local authority/member of M4EG. The Call will prioritize local authorities that are relatively harder to reach or have received relatively less support from international actors.

TIMELINE

End-October 2022
Launch of Call for Proposals among M4EG members in Ukraine and Moldova

Applications are received on an ongoing basis.
Deadline for proposals: End November 2022

December 2022
review of proposals and decision making by the M4EG Selection Committee (EU & UNDP)

January 2023
Wide announcement of selected proposals

For more information, including evaluation criteria, please see the Guidance Note for Applicants for the "EU Response and Renewal Grant Programme for M4EG"

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