

Regional Support Points for Social Enterprise Support - Call for Applications

Selection Criteria

The Criteria for the selection of regional points for the support to social enterprises have been developed and finalized in close cooperation with the Beneficiary, the Ministry of Labor Social Policy in order to be used in the evaluation process for selecting **2 regional points** in **Ohrid** and **Veles** to which customized support will be provided during the implementation period of the project.

The eligible Applicants are those that represent one of the below mentioned legal forms:

- An association running economic activities
- A foundation running economic activities
- D.O.O. (company limited by guarantee) established by association or foundation
- A cooperative
- Public agency
- Local municipality

The selection criteria and scoring are as following:

1. Physical capacity - Min.5. - Max. 20 points

The candidate entity will be selected based on the capacity to provide space for working with clients – this criterion is connected to the provision of equipment and space for organizing information sessions, meetings and trainings with potential and existing social enterprises. The potential candidate should have an equipped meeting room / premises for future capacity building sessions.

2. Human capital - Min.5. - Max. 20 points

The candidate entity will be selected based on the ability to provide competent staff members and human capital for supporting the existing social entrepreneurship initiatives. The potential candidate should have trained and competent staff that will provide future education seminars, trainings, individual counseling and advice for the purposes of capacity building and empowerment of social enterprises, civil society organizations, cooperatives and SMEs.

3. Building local partnerships for social inclusion - Min.5. - Max. 20 points

The applicant should demonstrate solid experience in establishing local and national partnerships and at the same time express readiness to implement their future activities in cooperation with other partners such as local municipalities, private companies, CSOs etc. and should contribute to social cohesion in the community through building local partnerships.

4. Organizational and financial sustainability - Min.5. - Max. 20 points

The applicant should demonstrate ability for financial sustainability once the project “Support to Social Enterprises” has been completed (whereby the resources were generated through sales of products/services, provision of services or feasible social entrepreneurship initiatives, fundraising efforts for future sustainability of the regional points of support to social enterprises). It is important that the applicant demonstrates ability to recognize and support various business models for creating future sustainability.

5. Relevant experience of the Applicant - Min.5. - Max. 20 points

Applicant is able to demonstrate suitable experience, competences and willingness to support social enterprises, CSOs, cooperatives, SMEs. In this respect, the applicant will be selected based on the kind of support provided and the number of supported entities, including the number and type of the projects implemented or being implemented within the period from 2018 and onwards.

Evaluation procedures

- Maximum score (total number of points) for the selection is 100 points
- All eligible applicants will be interviewed
- Final List of 8 candidates will be selected as regional points of support to social enterprises to be supported within the project „Support to Social Enterprises“.
- The selected candidates will be sent a separate letter to notify them on the future procedure steps.
- **Decision of the Evaluation Committee:** Jury of 5 experts, including project team, representatives of MLSP and SE Network will evaluate sent applications according to the mentioned above scores.
- The selected candidates will be asked to provide a short presentation of the entity, the structure and activities given in the “pitch” format. The evaluation committee may raise additional questions and clarifications related to identification form. The interview will be conducted in English language.

Note: The core criteria that the selected regional contact point should follow in their future work of supporting social enterprise initiatives are defined based on the EU definition:

- The organization must engage in economic activity; which means that it must engage in a continuous activity of production and/or exchange of goods and/or services
- It must pursue an explicit and primary social aim; the one that benefits society
- It must have limits on distribution of profits and/or assets; the purpose of such limits is to prioritize the social aim over profit making
- It must be independent; organizational autonomy from the State and other traditional for-profit organizations
- It must have inclusive governance; characterized by participatory and/or democratic decision