



FAQ

IKI Medium Grants (IMG) – Call 2021

As of June 2021

Content

1. IKI Medium Grants funding priorities and funding approaches	1
2. General grant regulations (Zuwendungsrecht)	2
3. Requirements for the German implementing partner and local partners	3
4. Selection and application procedure	4



1. IKI Medium Grants funding priorities and funding approaches

What is the IKI Medium Grants funding programme?

The IKI Medium Grants funding programme addresses civil society actors based in Germany that work in collaboration with local partners in selected ODA-eligible implementing countries to put measures in place to intensify North-South cooperation on climate action, adaptation to the impacts of climate change and biodiversity conservation. The programme explicitly aims to strengthen civil society actors and their international networks. Specifically, IKI Medium Grants support project activities that address innovative, bottom-up contributions for implementing the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity. To achieve this, the BMU sets varying funding priorities each year, for which interested parties can apply with innovative project ideas.

What are the thematic funding priorities in the selection procedure of 2021?

The programme is looking for projects that combine one of the following two thematic funding priorities with one or both of the funding approaches

Thematic funding priorities:

- COVID-19 and adaptation to the impacts of climate change – Promoting resilience in local populations and communities
- Developing, supporting and strengthening participatory processes and methods of ambitious, inclusive climate action

Funding approaches:

- Local implementation of pilot projects
- Building and expanding capacities

For further information, please check [the funding information](#) page 3.

Can a project cover both funding priorities and the two approaches?



It is possible to focus on two approaches. However, only one thematic funding priority will find acceptance. The chosen funding priority has to be the core of the project concept. If some aspects of the other thematic funding priority meet within your project concept, you can reflect on them as well.

2. General grant regulations (Zuwendungsrecht)

Is there a funding limit to first time applicants?

The BMU funding amount for IKI Medium Grants projects must be between 300,000 EUR und 800,000 EUR. It does not depend on whether you are applying for the first time or not.

Do we need to include own funding in the budget and if yes, how much?

Yes, generally, IKI funding is provided as partial funding and the implementing organisations need to provide own financial contributions. However, there is no fixed percentage of own contributions. Whether the own contributions are reasonable will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Please note, that only uncommitted financial resources are accepted as own contributions. In-kind contributions such as personnel or infrastructure are not accepted as own contributions, even if welcome in general.

There is no need for financial contributions by partners, but it helps to underline the interest of the partner(s) countries.

Are 'in kind contributions' (e.g. personnel costs, use of facilities) valid as own financial contribution?

No, in-kind contributions cannot be stated in the financial plan. Only contributions involving cash flow should be budgeted and count as own/third-party contributions.

Can IKI funds be used for the project which consists of a huge investment budget, e.g., building something?

The IKI Medium Grants funding programme does not fund investment activities. The sum of all individual items valued at 800 EUR or more cannot exceed 50% of the total project funding.

Is sub-granting allowed?

Yes, subcontracting is allowed but you need to guarantee the local subcontracting regulations/ procurement regulations (Vergaberecht). The local implementing organisations are recipients of sub grants themselves - a second sub-granting need to be assessed in the context of the project concept (not excluded per se).

Subject to compliance with procurement rules and aspects of cost-effectiveness and appropriateness, experts from non-ODA-eligible countries may also be commissioned in individual cases, provided that there is demonstrably no suitable contractor available in the target country and it does not lead to a disproportionately unreasonable emission of GHG emissions, for example through excessive additional travel.

Is there any financial guideline available so that we know about the percentage of money budgeted for Personnel, Assets, Running Cost and Deliverables?

We have an explicit [administrative guideline document](#) on the IKI webpage.



However, expenditure regulation are generally based on the German grant regulations (Zuwendungsrecht). General guidelines can be found on the webpage [Formularschrank des Bundes](#) (only available in German language).

Is it feasible to apply for IKI Medium Grants and submit a project outline for an extension of an ongoing project?

Funding is only granted for projects that have not yet started.

Is there a preparation phase for the IKI Medium Grants?

There is no provision of a preparation phase as in the IKI thematic or country specific selection procedures. The project implementation has to be completed within 24 to maximum 36 months.

3. Requirements for the German implementing partner and local partners

What organisations are eligible?

Funding is available for not-for-profit civil society organisations (non-governmental organisations, associations, foundations, think tanks) and academic institutions (universities and research institutions), as well as non-profit companies. The lead implementing organisation must be headquartered and operating in Germany. Companies in the commercial sector are excluded from funding, as are state actors, such as federally owned companies or municipalities ([see funding information page 8](#)).

The organisation must have a non-profit business unit. The project must fall under the responsibility of the organisation's non-profit business unit. The organisation must not pursue any profit-making intentions in implementing the project. In addition, the organisation must be qualified to appropriately plan, efficiently implement, monitor and account on an expenditure basis.

Can governmental institutions be implementing local partner?

Governmental institutions cannot receive any IKI funds, since this could involve budgetary support. Hence, governmental entities cannot be part of the consortium. However, they may be involved as political partners and provide support for the implementation of the project.

Which kind of commitment and support is IKI expecting from the local government?

We do not need any political commitment within the first stage of selection procedure (submitting outlines). Within the second stage (assessment of the full proposal), BMU will address the local government via a political endorsement.

Can the German lead organization collaborate with two local organizations across regions?

The number of local partners is limited to two partners maximum. They should be in the same geographical region. If the project is implemented in one implementing country, at least one local implementing organisation is located in the selected implementing country. The second local implementing organisation is either based in the selected country of implementation or located within the same geographical region.

If the project is implemented in two implementing countries, both local implementing organisations must be based in one of each of the selected implementing countries.



For further information please see the [overview of ODA-countries and regions](#) on the IKI webpage.

Is it possible to involve a second German partner organisation or a partner in a non-ODA country?

No, only one German organisation is accepted. All other partners must be local partners registered in the country of implementation/ the same geographical region.

What does "sufficient" implementation experience of the German lead organisation mean?

The German implementing organisation must demonstrate at least three years of project experience in international cooperation as well as at least three years of technical expertise relevant to the selected thematic funding focus based on the attached references. The local implementing organisation/-s must demonstrate at least three years of technical expertise relevant to the selected thematic funding focus based on the attached references.

It should be noted that ZUG/ BMU would assess the organizational experience and not the experience of individual employees.

Could the local partner act as the lead organisation?

IKI Medium Grants projects will be implemented by one German implementing organisation and one to two local implementing organisations based in the country or region of implementation. The German implementing organisation must submit the project outline and will be the grantee of the BMU funding. The grantee has to forward the individual grants to their local partners.

Is it possible to involve local offices of international organisations as local partners?

The IKI Medium funding programme aims to strengthen local civil society organisations through partnership-based cooperation at eye level. Local partners are established independent organisations under the respective national law and be able to exercise the rights and obligations arising from the on lending contract independently and without being bound by instructions from a parent organisation.

Does ZUG help facilitate linkages between German-based lead partners and ODA implementing partners?

ZUG cannot help to identify possible partner organisations as a service.

4. Selection and application procedure

What is the earliest possible project start date?

The selection procedure will take up to six month. Therefore, a realistic project start cannot be expected before the second quarter of 2022.

When will the applicant be informed whether the project was selected?

If a project outline does not fulfil the formal requirements, the applicant will be informed by end of June 2021. In the next step, the project outlines will undergo an in-depth technical appraisal, which is expected to be completed in September.

Is there a template to follow in developing and submitting the outline?



There is a template available on the [IKI webpage](#) as well as on the [IKI online platform](#). You find the template after registering and login to the IKI online platform.

Does one get feedback on the reasons why a project proposal was rejected?

We are going to provide feedback to every applicant. If you are not invited to send a full project proposal, you will be informed about the rejection of your application. The letter of decline will include individual feedback. In case there are any further questions, you are welcome to contact the IKI Secretariat.

How many projects outlines can an organisation submit or in how many can it be involved?

There is no limitation to the number of outlines an organisation can submit as lead organisation nor be involved in as a partner.

Will the next call cover the same thematic funding priorities like the current one?

The topics will be determined in accordance with the BMU and will differ to the latest thematic funding priorities.