

IKI Medium Grants Selection Criteria

The projects are assessed and selected by the project management agency and the responsible ministries according to the following selection criteria:

Criteria		Explanations
! – Minimum requirements		
Both the minimum requirements and the assessment criteria are used to assess the outlines submitted. All minimum requirements that, if not met, will lead to the exclusion of the project outline from the selection process are marked with a “!”.		
Formal eligibility of the project concept		
Funding requirements		
!	Submission in due time	The project outline must be submitted by the deadline of 12.01.2027 at 11:59 a.m. (CET) and only via the online platform .
!	Completeness of the documents	The documents were submitted completely and in accordance with the specifications.
!	Scope of the project concept	The project concept may not exceed five pages. The default font size is 11 pt Arial. The specified template must be used.
!	Need for public funding	There is a need for funding (i.e. the project cannot be implemented on a significant scale without public funds or through its own resources).
!	No early start of measures	Only activities that have not yet started at the time of submitting the project outline are eligible for funding.
!	Exclusion criteria	With the exclusion criteria, certain activities considered too risky for the environment and people are excluded from funding without exception. The exclusion criteria can be viewed here .

!	No institutional funding	Only one project implementation with a limited project duration can be funded. Institutional funding is excluded.
!	No pure research funding	The implementation of a measure (pilot projects, capacity development) and not a pure investigation/research project will be funded.
!	No focus on Germany	The funded measures must take place mainly in the country of implementation and not primarily in Germany.
Duration and amount of funding		
!	Funding volume	The funding volume of the project is between 300,000 EUR and 800,000 EUR.
!	Project duration	The duration of the project is between 24 and 36 months.
Project funding		
	Own funds	The financial contributions of the lead organisation as well as the amount of additional funding resources (co-financing) are clear and appropriate.
!	Double funding	The project or the measures may not already be funded by other donors.
	Involvement of the private sector	It will be considered a positive factor in the selection decision if the project involves the private sector as a target group.
Country of implementation		
!	ODA-eligible countries	At the time of submitting the project outline, the country or countries of implementation must be listed in the outline form as ODA-eligible state(s).
!	Number of countries of implementation	The project must be implemented in at least one and no more than two of the ODA-eligible countries listed in the outline form.
!	Geographical approach	The geographical approach (regional/bilateral) is clearly justified. The allocation to geographical regions for selected ODA countries can be found in the outline form.
Technical eligibility of the project concept		
!	Objective of the thematic priority	The project concept must be clearly aligned with the chosen thematic priority and technically suitable for achieving its specific objectives.

	Argumentation for funding approach	The project concept plausibly presents and justifies how the selection of the relevant funding approaches supports the planned impact of the intended project objective.
Funding approaches		
	Level of innovation (for Funding approach I – pilot project)	In this context, innovative means any technological, methodological, or social measure that has not been applied in the project region before or not in the same form. The project uses either new means (e.g. methods, approaches, and technologies) or existing means in the context of a new purpose (e.g. new themes, target groups, or regions/countries). It must be ensured that the pilot project is sufficiently anchored locally through appropriate capacity development or the use of local expertise.
	Methods for strengthening capacities (Funding approach II – capacity development)	On the basis of plausibly presented needs, the project sustainably strengthens the capacities of the defined target groups through suitable and, if necessary, innovative methods. Depending on the needs, this can include an increase in specialist knowledge, methodological and management skills or strategic organisational development skills.
Selection of the country of implementation		
	Link to the initial situation in the country of implementation	The project establishes a link to the local implementation landscape and addresses possible synergies with existing projects.
Project planning		
	Convincing and realistic project planning	The project concept convincingly demonstrates the realistic achievement of the intended project objectives through the planned activities within the project duration. The project objectives are presented in a transparent, systematic, and concrete manner. The targeted consideration of gender justice in the context of project planning is positively assessed.
	Results chain	The project concept shows a convincing, ambitious, and realistic application of the OECD results chain for the problem-solving approach (output, outcome, impact). If the main or secondary objective of the project is to promote gender justice as a contribution to the protection of climate and biodiversity, this is anchored in the results chain.
	Environmental and social standards	Possible environmental and social risks and safeguard measures are presented in a transparent and appropriate manner.
	Carbon neutrality	The project concept reflects negative climate impacts and gives possible approaches to CO ₂ avoidance (e.g. through video or telephone conferences).
Target groups		

	Target groups	The project concept clearly lists all target groups relevant to the project in a gender-disaggregated manner, describes approaches to solutions for the challenges of the relevant target groups, and describes how knowledge can be transferred to these actors in a transparent manner.
	Promotion of gender justice	The project concept includes specific measures aimed at counteracting unequal gender roles, relations, and norms. A gender-responsive approach is therefore plausible. These measures serve to implement the project objectives and are clearly recognisable in the results chain.
Sustainability of the project results		
	Exit strategy	The project concept provides an answer as to how the project impacts and results can be maintained after the end of IKI funding.
	Replicability and upscaling	The project concept describes the potential for replicability and upscaling of the project results and effects.
Formal eligibility of the lead implementing organisation		
!	Outline Phase	Projects are eligible for funding only with one lead organisation based in Germany or the EU at the time of submitting the outline. The latter submits the project outline and receives the grant award document from ZUG gGmbH upon successful proposal review.
!	Implementation Phase	At the time of the first disbursement of a grant awarded, the lead organisation must be able to demonstrate the existence of a permanent business establishment, branch, or other facility in Germany (implementing organisation) that serves the activities of the organisation receiving the grant.
!	Ideal business area	The lead organisation must have an ideal business area. The project must be located in the ideal business area of the German implementing organisation.
!	profit-making intentions	Implementing organisations may not pursue any intents to realise a profit with the project.
!	Turnover criterion	The calculated average annual IKI funding volume may not exceed 50% of the average annual turnover of the last two business years of the lead organisation.
Technical eligibility of the lead implementing organisation		
!	Experience in international cooperation	The lead organisation must demonstrate at least three years of experience in international cooperation.

!	Thematic experience	The lead organisation must demonstrate at least three years of experience in the chosen thematic funding area.
Formal eligibility of the implementing partner		
!	Local organisation(s) from country of implementation	The following applies with regard to local embedding: If the project is carried out in a country of implementation, at least one implementing partner must be based in this country. A potential second partner should also be based there but may alternatively come from the relevant geographical region (see list of countries in the outline form). For projects that take place in two implementing countries, one implementing partner must be based in each of the two countries. The implementing partner and the implementing organisation must not be identical.
	Charitable purpose	The partner organisation(s) pursue(s) a non-profit purpose according to its object of organisation. When selecting its partner organisations, the implementing organisation must be able to verify and prove their non-profit status and creditworthiness.
Technical eligibility of the implementing partner		
!	Thematic experience	Partner organisation(s) must demonstrate two years of experience in the chosen thematic priority by means of the attached reference projects.
Assessment of the North–South partnership		
	Division of tasks and roles	The division of tasks and roles between the lead organisation and the partner organisation(s) is coherent and appropriate based on the respective skills.
	Budget distribution	The distribution of the total budget between the implementing organisations is appropriate and transparent.
	Knowledge exchange in partnership	The exchange of knowledge among all implementing organisations takes place on equal terms and enables mutual learning from each other.