



GZ: RL/9-ZGI/2021

Framework Programmes

Co-financing of Austrian Civil Society
Organisations (CSOs)

Funding Guideline

 Austrian
Development
Agency

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Please note that the present document is not an official translation. In case of any discrepancies the German version shall prevail.

1. Background and Aims

Within the framework of the bilateral programme and project support of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), projects are promoted which sustainably improve the living conditions and development perspectives of the population in developing countries and contribute to poverty reduction. The principles and objectives of international targets such as the Agenda 2030 (Sustainable Development Goals, Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation) are taken into account and all ADA projects shall contribute to their achievement.

The funding instrument for Civil Society International Framework Programmes applies to Austrian organisations that together with local partner organisations carry out **self-contained multi-year programmes in developing countries** in accordance with the definition of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

2. Legal bases and other bases

- Development Cooperation Act, BGBl. I No. 49/2002 in the current version (DCA)
- Additionally, the Regulation of the Ministry of Finance regarding General Guidelines for the granting of subsidies from federal funds 2014 in the current version (ARR) applies.¹
- Three-Year Programme on Austrian Development Policy in the current version
- General Terms and Conditions of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) for Development Cooperation Funding in the current version (AVB)
- Environmental, Gender and Social Impact Management Manual in the current version (Download: <http://www.entwicklung.at/en/publications/manuals/>)
- Guidelines for the Visibility of the Austrian Development Cooperation in the current version

3. Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants are **development organisations** in accordance with § 3 (2) of the Development Cooperation Act **with their registered office in Austria** that have existed for at least three years and that meet the formal criteria for Framework Programmes (see Annex A.1.).

4. Principles and aims of a Framework Programme

A Framework Programme consists of coherent and interactive **programme interventions with a common strategic and development objective**. The duration of a Framework Programme must be **3 to a maximum of 4 years**. The Programme objective must be clearly defined, and quantitatively and qualitatively measurable.

At least 80 percent of the budget must be foreseen for programme measures in one or more ADC priority countries or regions in accordance with the Three-Year Programme of Austrian Development Policy. Measures in other development countries according to the OECD-DAC list of ODA recipient countries may amount to a maximum of 20 percent of the total programme budget. This requirement must also be taken into consideration for all budget reallocations throughout the programme implementation.

¹ Regarding contradictions of the two legal bases the Development Cooperation Act prevails.

Framework Programmes in Africa can only be co-funded if **Gender Equality is defined as main objective**. Consequently, they must fulfil the criteria for the **Gender Equality Policy Marker 2** according to the OECD-DAC definition.²

A Framework Programme must be coordinated with national and local development plans and other relevant local and international actors and must assist the partners in continuing their own development process.

The **added value** of a Framework Programme must be clearly identified and coordinated with local partner organisations.

The **Framework Programme approach is defined by the following criteria:**

- Substantial contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) II
- Contribution to the implementation of national/regional development programmes
- Coherence with the respective ADC country, sector, or regional programmes
- Synergies between individual interventions
- Experience exchange and Know-how transfer between the applicant organisation and local partner organisations of the respective Framework Programme, networking with relevant development policy actors
- Systematic knowledge management
- Capacity Development
- Policy Dialogue and Advocacy on local and regional levels
- Innovative approaches and methods
- Support of development policy dialogue in partner countries and in Austria

A Framework Programme can also contain pilot projects and programme interventions for the consolidation of previous Framework Programme interventions.

5. Examples for Programme interventions

Programme level interventions:

Interventions with synergetic effects

- Use of synergies with projects in the same area of intervention (complementary and/or common activities)
- Coordination and/or common activities with other donors or partner organisations (e.g. trainings)
- Networking with local organisations, local authorities (new methods, regions)

Context and structure forming interventions

- Observation of relevant regional/national framework conditions (depending on relevant level of impact)
- Reflection of coherence with other policies throughout programme duration
- Policy dialogue with relevant actors
- Joint presence with other donors or partner organisations

Knowledge management and know-how-transfer

- Know-how-transfer to other projects within the organisation, piloting of new instruments (e.g. staff exchange)
- Exchange between programme partners (especially South-South)

² <http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/dac-gender-equality-marker.htm>

- Systematic exchange with other Austrian/European/international organisations
- Systematic learning and analysis of experiences in collaboration with local partners (e.g. achievement and assessment of impacts)
- Documentation of experiences and knowledge in appropriate formats (e.g. manuals)
- Continuous application/dissemination of successful methods

Advocacy and policy dialogue

- Structured dialogue with local, regional and national decision-makers
- Influencing of local, regional and national decision-makers aiming for sustainable changes
- Integration within national development plans and programmes
- Support of development policy dialogue in the partner countries and in Austria

Pilot Projects (shorter duration possible):

Piloting of new systems, methods, approaches or topics in order to gain an understanding of the functionality of an innovative intervention. (The successful implementation of a Pilot Project does not guarantee funding for subsequent interventions by ADC).

Consolidation Phases (shorter duration possible):

Ensuring the sustainability of a previous programme intervention.

6. Funding criteria

6.1 Thematic and structural criteria

Funding is available for Framework Programmes which contribute to a long-term improvement in the living conditions and development perspectives of the people in developing countries in accordance with the SDGs and the Three-Year Programme of Austrian Development Cooperation, with priority focus on:

- poverty eradication
- human rights
- gender equality
- preservation and sustainable use of natural resources
- strengthening of disadvantaged social groups (such as people with disabilities, children, elderly persons)
- conflict prevention and peace-building
- good governance and democratisation
- strengthening of local institutions or civil society with regards to an active participation in the improvement of living conditions

Programmes should correspond to ADC's thematic focuses.

In the event of an unexpected emergency situation in priority countries and key regions as defined by the ADC Three-Year Programme as most recently amended, available resources from the Framework Programmes can be reallocated to assist local partners in carrying out emergency measures and for reconstruction.

6.2 Budgetary criteria

Programme budget and ADC grants

The **minimum total Framework Programme amount** (grant, own and outside resources) is **EUR 900,000** for a programme duration of three to four years.

The actual amount of funding allocated to a Framework Programme is determined on the basis of the Framework Programme Funding Criteria (see Annex A.3.). ADC funding is granted exclusively in the form of non-repayable subsidies. The programme budget is to be listed in accordance with the standard ADA form (see www.entwicklung.at).

The **minimum total amount for a programme intervention** should be **EUR 200,000**, except for Pilot Projects, consolidation phases, or interventions for knowledge management.

The **indirect project costs (PBE)** should account for **max. 10 percent of the project costs**. These costs are based on the PBE arrangement as most recently amended.

Funding rate, own funds, third-party funds

A Framework Programme may only receive funding if at least 80 percent of the budget are foreseen for programme measures in one or more ADC priority countries or regions in accordance with the Three-Year Programme of Austrian Development Policy.

The maximum **funding rate** is **80 percent of the total programme costs**. The contribution of own funds and third party funds amounts to 20 percent of the total programme costs.

The applicant has to contribute, disclose in a transparent way and prove **own funds** to the extent of **at least 10 percent** of the project costs. These can be either financial own funds, in-kind or work contributions of the applicant or contributions of third parties. Contributions of third parties are primarily the financial participation of a project partner, donations, sponsorship payments etc. Funding of third parties (through other donors) are, in any case, not considered as contributions of third parties and, therefore, not as own funds.

ADA's **General Terms and Conditions for Development Cooperation Funding (AVB)** apply. The General Terms and Conditions in their most recent version are available for download at <http://www.entwicklung.at/>.

Budget revision and prolongation of project duration

Budget reallocations between programme interventions are subject to approval.

Budget reallocations and changes in the project duration are subject to the ADA regulations for revision (see www.entwicklung.at).

In case of under-utilisation of the Framework Programme budget, a prolongation of project duration may be possible under certain conditions, subject to approval by ADA. An overlap with the commencement of a subsequent contract may be granted under certain conditions.

6.3. Submission deadlines and timetable

Calls for framework programmes are published on ADA's website. The development organisation must submit a **notification of interest (incl. Concept Note)** in the funding of a Framework Programme **via Email** to ADA Unit Civil Society International and Humanitarian Aid by **28 February** (or 29 February, respectively) (Zivilgesellschaft-international@ada.gv.at). The submission must contain documents on fulfilment of the formal eligibility criteria by the submitting development organisation. ADA will then examine the notification of interest and concept note and ascertain eligibility, proper registration, seemingly conduct of business and suitability of the applicant.

In case additional funding is available, a **separate call for the submission of notifications of interest may be launched at any given moment of the year**.

In case of a positive assessment, the **first planning meeting** between the development organisation and ADA will be held **3 months after submission of the notification of**

interest to discuss the thematic objectives and basic orientation and scope of the Framework Programme.

The development organisation must submit a **detailed full proposal / application for funding** to ADA **at the latest 3 months before the commencement of the Framework Programme**. For Framework Programmes applying for a funding amount of **over EUR 3 million**, the submission deadline is **4 months before the commencement of the Framework Programme at the latest**. If the funding application is approved (including approval by ADA's supervisory board, if applicable), ADA will draw up a funding agreement.

Forms for notifications of interest and funding applications can be downloaded from the ADA-Website (www.entwicklung.at).

6.4 Formal criteria

The **notification of interest** consists of:

- notification of interest
- extract from the register of associations, the company register or equivalent
- copy of the statutes of the organisation
- copy of country programmes, strategies, etc.
- the ADA Financial Health Form completed and signed by an external/internal auditor or tax consultant, including the documentation required therein
- proof of creditworthiness / financial soundness according to a recognized rating system (e.g. by Creditreform, Kreditschutzverband 1870, Bisnode, Crif, Dun & Bradstreet, Schufa, Moody's, Fitch, DBRS)
- concept note
- preliminary logframe
- Environmental, Gender and Social Standards Checklist

The **funding application** consists of:

- programme application
- logframe, risk register, implementation schedule
- total budget and budgets of individual interventions if applicable
- description of programme interventions including logframe and implementation schedule, if applicable
- Financial Identification Form

The application for funding must be submitted via Email, including authorised signatures, to the ADA. The documents may be submitted in German, English, or French. The approval of the ADA is required in advance for submissions in other languages. A brief and explicit description of the problem, objectives, target groups and activities in the Framework Programme is to be submitted in German (even for submissions in other languages) with the application.

7. Monitoring, progress controls, and evaluations

The development organisation is to **monitor** the project continuously by means of annual progress controls in cooperation with the local partner organisations to verify the achievement of the objectives. The results are to be reported to the ADA. The costs are covered by the indirect project costs (PBE).

Reports on the **progress of the Framework Programme** are to be made annually in German, English, or French using the standard format. The prior agreement of the ADA is required for other formats or languages.

An annual meeting is held between the development organisation and the ADA. If the Framework Programme or a programme intervention is being implemented in an ADC priority

country, the development organisation also maintains regular contact with the respective ADA cooperation office.

In coordination with the development organisation, ADA may implement “field visits” for monitoring purposes.

Evaluations of the programme interventions are carried out systematically based on the ADC guidelines and evaluation standards (see www.entwicklung.at). Evaluations or reviews are to be provided for in the budget planning. Before an evaluation is commissioned, the agreement of the ADA on the terms of reference for the selection of an evaluator is to be obtained.

For individual programme interventions, which have been completed for two or more years, an ex-post evaluation may be carried out following ADA-approval. This enables the monitoring of medium- and long-term impacts of a programme intervention.

Upon agreement with the development organisation, ADA will be entitled to carry out progress analyses and evaluations of individual programme interventions.

For each Framework Programme, an **evaluation** must be carried out **at programme level**. Since review results should influence any potential successor programme, the review’s timing should be planned accordingly. Before a review is commissioned, the agreement of the ADA on the terms of reference for the selection of an evaluator is to be obtained.

8. ADC Visibility

The contracting party and the local partner organisations have to place the ADC logo and a reference that the funds come from the ADC on all publications as well as on funded equipment and facilities according to the Guidelines for the Visibility of the Austrian Development Cooperation in the current version.

9. Legal recourse

The decision to grant funding is made by the ADA exclusively on the basis of these Funding Guidelines and the available budget resources. There is no legal entitlement to grants.

10. Final provisions

Entry into force: 01.07.2005

Amended: 08.03.2019 with GZ: RL/2-ZGI/2019, 29.01.2020 with GZ: RL/11-ZGI/2019, 16.02.2021 with GZ: RL/4-ZGI/2021, 12.01.2022 with GZ: RL/9-ZGI-2021.

The ADA Unit Civil Society International and Humanitarian Aid is responsible for further development of the Guideline.

Ambassador Friedrich Stift
Managing Director

Annex

A.1. Formal eligibility criteria

Statutes of the organisation

- Registered office in Austria
- Development cooperation defined as the organisation's aim
- Existence of the organisation for at least three years

Content and programme

- Objectives and programme orientation compatible with ADC (Three-Year Programme of Austrian Development Cooperation)
- Based on programme orientation/strategies in partner country (presentation of country programmes/strategy papers)
- Suitable programme staff in Austria and partner country
- Appropriate programme scope: the Framework Programme should account for no more than 40 percent of the programme activities of the development organisation (excluding educational projects in Austria, emergency assistance and disaster relief programmes)

Implementation and quality management capacities

- References relating to successful project cooperation with ADC, including successful implementation of at least 3 ZGI Individual Projects
- Demonstrated experience in projects/programmes of this scope
- Efficient implementation of previous Framework Programmes
- Sufficient financial capacities and staff for the implementation of a Framework Programme
- Integrity of development organisation (e.g. "Spendengütesiegel" or satisfactory inspection reports, please refer to Financial Health Form)

Integration in partner country

- Local partner orientation and network and dialogue with partner
- Good local profile by partner organisation or own structures
- Advocacy capacities

Integration in civil society in Austria and the EU

- Integration in civil society
- Advocacy
- Visibility of development communication and awareness-raising capacities
- Networking in Austria and the EU for exchange of experiences

A.2. Environmental, gender and social standards

The organisation is assessed concerning the consideration of environmental, gender and social standards and the respective risk management in the course of the application, in line with the ADA guidelines for strategic partnerships.

A.3. Criteria for determining the level of grant

The following criteria are used to determine the level of grant for the Framework Programme on the basis of information provided to ADA by the development organisation.

- Organisation's capacity for qualitative programme implementation: number of project accountants/programme assistants in relation to Framework Programme volume; existence of local structures
- Quality of logical frameworks
- Availability of private donations for development cooperation activities/year, i.e. capacity for raising own funds
- Average Framework Programme budget for the last three years (not applicable to first-time applicants)
- Total project volume in development cooperation per year