



USAID AND UK AID TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICES

RAPID RESPONSE FUND: REQUEST FOR CONCEPT NOTES JANUARY 2019

BACKGROUND

The USAID and UK aid Transparency and Accountability in Public Administration and Services (TAPAS) activity supports the Government of Ukraine (GOU) to implement visible and successful reforms in public administration and services to greatly reduce or eliminate corruption. TAPAS promotes eGovernance reforms across three components: ensuring large-scale use of eProcurement; supporting effective open data programs across Ukraine; and creating efficient eServices to fight corruption.

The TAPAS activity is implemented by Eurasia Foundation (EF), a US-based international development organization promoting good governance and civil society development. EF implements the TAPAS activity together with a consortium of highly knowledgeable Ukrainian and British organizations that includes the Data Journalism Agency (TEXTY), East Europe Foundation, Kyiv School of Economics, The Open Data Institute, SocialBoost, and Transparency International – Ukraine.

The TAPAS Rapid Response Fund (RRF) is designed to provide resources for short-term initiatives that have a clear anti-corruption impact. It is the responsibility of eligible government institutions to identify funding needs to address corruption in the public sector while EF is responsible to organize TAPAS RRF tenders and supervise its implementation. USAID will give final approval of applications to be funded by the TAPAS RRF.

RRF proposals must have a clear anti-corruption impact, align with one of the three TAPAS components and contribute to the relevant component's expected result(s). TAPAS expected results (ER) include:

- ER 1: Laws, policies and practices allow for effective and scaled implementation of electronic procurement in Ukraine.
- ER 2: National and local level government entities realize savings to public budgets through effective planning and management of public procurement.
- ER 3: National and local level governments publish data on a regular basis under an open data program.
- ER 4: Selected key public services are largely free of corruption through transparency, process improvement, and automation (eServices).

All initiatives funded through the TAPAS RRF must contribute directly to one or more of the expected results listed above. In addition, EF encourages applicants to incorporate gender considerations and inclusive development approaches into the design of their RRF proposals. The scope and duration of each RRF project may vary; however, it is generally expected that proposed projects will be **no longer than six months** and have a budget of **no more than \$100,000**. An institution may submit multiple proposals.

CONCEPT NOTE

Concept notes may be submitted in English or Ukrainian.

At a minimum, concept notes should include the following:

- Problem statement
- Proposed goal and objectives of the project
- Corrupt activities that will cease if the project is successful
- Support that will be provided by the applicant institution(s)
- Timeline for project implementation
- Contact person for the length of the project

Ukrainian government institutions responsible for law enforcement or national security **are not eligible** to apply for TAPAS RRF project funding.

Once reviewed, EF will invite successful applicants to submit more detailed RRF project proposals for final review.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

All national-level Ukrainian government institutions of executive, legislative and judiciary branches, government institutions where TAPAS Open Data Leaders Network participants are employed, TAPAS Open Data partner cities, government entities with which TAPAS has signed a memorandum of understanding, are eligible to apply. Government institutions involved with law enforcement and/or national security work are not eligible.

CRITERIA FOR PROJECT EVALUATION

The following criteria will be used in assessing TAPAS RRF concept notes:

1. Clarity of project design, with a justification of its feasibility.
2. Degree to which the project contributes to TAPAS' expected results.
3. Degree to which the project will materially reduce the risk of corruption and increase transparency and/or accountability.
4. Likelihood of achieving concrete and measurable results within the project timeline.
5. Likelihood that project outcomes will be sustained after RRF support comes to an end.
6. Degree to which the project benefits persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons and sexual minorities, and has an equitable impact on women and men.

CONCEPT NOTE SUBMISSION

Applicants must submit concept notes in English or Ukrainian via email to RRFApplication@eurasia.org no later than February 13, 2019. Completed concept notes should contain all the information listed in the concept note application form, which is available on the TAPAS website (<http://tapas.org.ua/>) or from the TAPAS Senior Grants and Contracts Manager, Oleksandr Vygovsky, ovygovsky@eurasia.org, and accompanies this call for concept notes. All materials and documents submitted in response to this call for concept notes will be retained by EF during the review process and will not be returned to the applicant.

EF guarantees the confidentiality of applications. EF does not use information presented by applicants for purposes other than review and does not provide this information to any outside persons or institutions, except in such cases where it is required by Ukrainian or U.S. law or by donor agreements with EF.

Any questions regarding the RRF mechanism should be directed to Oleksandr Vygovsky, Senior Grants and Contracts Manager, ovygovsky@eurasia.org.