

EU Support for Non-EU Countries – Opportunities to explore for EASPD Members

Briefing - 24th April 2020

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1. What is “Team Europe” – the EU’s Global Response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is global in nature and affecting all countries across the globe. Europe has been particularly severely affected to date. However, the entire world is now suffering from the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic; both in terms of its health impact, as well as the economic and social damage it brings. For this reason, the EU created “[Team Europe](#)”, which brings over [€20 billion](#) in financial support to partner countries across the world.

This includes of course support for its close neighbours; which is why the European Union have set-up targeted support to help countries in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia) as well as in its Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, etc).

2. How is the EU supporting the Western Balkans and its Eastern Partnership?

The EU is implementing its support through dedicated packages for both the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership.

Western Balkans

The EU response to the coronavirus pandemic in the Western Balkans mobilises a package of over €410 million to support the Western Balkans during the COVID-19 emergency; including

- €38 million in immediate funding, mostly implement through UN agencies to address the most pressing medical equipment and protection needs; and
- €374 million in short to medium term assistance to support the social and economic recovery of the region.

More information available here, including specific amounts for each country: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/coronavirus_support_wb.pdf

Eastern Partnership

The EU response to the coronavirus pandemic in the Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Moldova, Georgia, etc) mobilises a package of over €410 million to support the Western Balkans during the COVID-19 emergency; including up to €963 million; including

- €80 million for immediate needs; and
- Up to €883 million for the short and medium term to support the social and economic recovery of the region.

This includes €11.3 million for Support for the most vulnerable groups in society, including grants of up to €60.000 to civil society organisations to respond to immediate needs, such as supporting local schools with distance learning – already available through the EU’s regional Rapid Response Mechanism. It also includes the launch of the “Eastern Partnership Solidarity Programme” to target the most affected parts of the populations, with sub-grants to small, local organisations.

More information available here, including specific amounts for each country:

https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/coronavirus_support_eap.pdf

3. I’m interested. What should I do?

Both budgets are being implemented by either the National Authorities, the World Health Organisation or UN Agencies; depending on specific contexts. Based on this, we recommend that you

Step 1. Develop a clear “project” proposal : Identify precisely which areas you wish to ask for funding, why you need such funding, how much you would need and timeline for implementation. EASPD’s helpdesk can provide advice.

Step 2. Contact the European Commission’s office in your country or region. You can identify them by writing “European Commission office followed by “Your Country” in your search engine”. You can usually easily find phone numbers and contact details quite easily. When contacting the office, please refer clearly to the initiatives above and explore if/how you can benefit from it. We recommend also you highlighting some of the challenges you have (for instance: lack of support to NGOs in economic measures, or others) to provide your services and being as practical as possible. You should also enquire as to the next concrete steps to benefit from the funding (if feasible).

Step 3. Let us know of your experience so we can share what’s feasible with others and request advice/support from the EU Commission; through our contacts with the national desks and experts.

For more information, please contact EASPD’s COVID Helpdesk: covidhelpdesk@easpd.eu