

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – YOUTHINK ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT – MAY 2024**

**(Updated June 10, 2024)**

1. **Can private entities apply to the call?**
   * No, only organizations registered under the Law on Associations of Citizens and Foundations in North Macedonia are eligible to apply.
2. **Do we need to have partners in the application?**
   * Showing partnerships is not a requirement under this call. You can choose to include partners, but it is not mandatory.
3. **Are there any templates for the concept note?**
   * There are no specific templates. Applicants should follow the structure of the concept note as outlined in the Annual Program Statement (APS).
4. **Where can we find more information on YouThink activities to avoid proposing overlapping activities?**
   * More information on the USAID Media Literacy Project YouThink can be found at the following [**LINK**](https://www.irex.org/project/youthink-media-literacy-north-macedonia)**.**
5. **Are there any cut-off dates for reviewing concept notes and providing feedback?**
   * No, concept notes are reviewed on a rolling basis. Feedback is typically provided within 7-10 business days (about 2 weeks) after submission.
6. **How can we know how many grants are still available?**
   * The Project will publish regular updates and inform applicants whenever a new grant is awarded. The Project has a total budget of $350,000, envisioning approximately ten (10) grants of up to $35,000 each.
7. **How many concept notes can be submitted per applicant?**
   * Each applicant may submit one concept note per LOT, for a total of three concept notes. However, an applicant can only be awarded **ONE (1)** grant.
8. **How is the evaluation conducted?**
   * The evaluation is conducted at three levels: IREX office in Skopje, IREX HQ in Washington, and USAID North Macedonia. Concept notes are evaluated based on their:
     + Responsiveness to the APS criteria;
     + Appropriateness of the subject matter; and
     + Creativity of proposed solutions.
   * Only successful concept notes that pass all three levels will proceed to the full application process.
9. **What is the co-creation process?**
   * If a concept note is eligible for the full application stage, IREX invites eligible organizations to take part in face-to-face meetings with IREX and/or USAID counterparts, to help applicants refine and shape their concept ideas for full applications with maximum impact based on evaluator feedback and YouThink priorities.
10. **Can the activities in the submitted concept notes span more than one LOT?**
    * The concept note should predominantly focus on one LOT, but it may include elements from other LOTs.
11. **Can the submitted concept note and activities be part of a larger program funded by another donor?**
    * Yes, but the concept note must disclose if the proposal is partially funded by another donor and if it is part of a larger ongoing program.
12. **Are there any templates or rules to be followed for the budget?**

* At the concept note stage, there is no specific template for the budget. However, applicants must provide an estimated cost breakdown for the proposed activities following the required concept note structure. The budget should be cost-effective and adhere to the standard rules of allowability, allocability, and reasonability of the costs.

1. **Does the age or registration duration of the applying organization matter?**

* No, the duration of an organization's operation or registration is not a criterion for eligibility. However, the organization must meet all specified eligibility criteria outlined in the APS, adhere to the concept note structure, provide all required information and documents, and successfully pass the Project's due diligence process to qualify for a grant.