



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Single Market Policy, Regulation and Implementation

Single Market Policy, Mutual Recognition and Surveillance

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Implementation of the New legislative Framework 175/G/GRO/IMA/15/1125

Joint enforcement actions under the multi-annual action plan for market surveillance of products in the EU

GRANT PROGRAMME 2015

The present call for proposals is composed of a set of Grant Submission Documents,
which form an integral part of this call:

- The call for proposals,
- The Guide for Applicants
- The Submission Set

The terms set out in the call for proposals document shall take precedence over those in
the other parts of the Grant Submission Documents.

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INTERESTED PARTIES ARE INVITED TO READ CAREFULLY THE BELOW INSTRUCTIONS, AND TO USE THE QUESTIONNAIRE PROVIDED IN CHAPTER II OF THE GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT APPLICATIONS ARE COMPLETE WHEN SUBMITTED.

1. CONTEXT

The European Union needs a well-functioning single Market to help get its economy back on track. The free movement of products is the most developed and best established of the four freedoms making up the internal market but it would be complacent to believe that the job is done. True, harmonisation rules have now been put in place for most products but even a good legislative framework is only as effective as those using it allow it to be. Alongside responsible economic operators, prepared to adapt their methods and incur the costs necessary to comply with the law, there will always be those traders who cut corners or deliberately flout the rules to 'make a fast buck' or gain a competitive edge. These sharp practices threaten the public interests that our legislation is designed to protect, such as health and safety in general, health and safety in the work place, protection of consumers, protection of the environment and public security. This situation is even more challenging when goods are being sold on the internet. Many of the products available on the internet are not meeting the necessary safety and compliance requirements in order to guarantee an appropriate level of protection for consumers and users. Furthermore, products recalled or withdrawn from the Union market may still be available to EU consumers and users via the internet.

Market surveillance is the answer. Market surveillance is an activity which is carried out by the authorities of the Member States of the Union. It should enable unsafe or otherwise harmful products to be identified and kept or taken off the market and unscrupulous or even criminal operators punished. It should also act as a powerful deterrent. In the area of products sold online, market surveillance activities are still taking place in a fairly incidental, fragmented and uncoordinated manner.

In order to be effective, the market surveillance effort must be uniform across the Union. If market surveillance is 'softer' in some parts of the Union than others, weak spots are created which threaten the public interest and create unfair trading conditions. Close cooperation and coordination of market surveillance activities in the EU is therefore essential.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE CALL

The objective of the call is to implement Action 9 of the Communication of the Commission on '20 actions for safer and compliant products for Europe: a multi-annual action plan for the surveillance of products in the EU' [COM(2013)76].

This action concerns joint enforcement activities to which the Commission will provide financial support, 'allowing market surveillance authorities and customs to pool resources and expertise and to apply SME-friendly methods. The main objective of this initiative is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the surveillance system in Europe, as well as to improve the coordination of the practical enforcement work carried out in relation to product categories or other priorities.'

Therefore, the Commission wants to support and encourage more and better market surveillance across borders within the EU, by financing joint market surveillance actions and other projects that contribute to a more efficient and effective market surveillance for products within the internal market.

In particular, the Commission will support joint enforcement activities in the area of products sold online, in order to enhance cooperation and coordination of activities in this area.

3. TIMETABLE

Scheduled start-up date for the action: applicants must specify in their application the duration of the action and, if possible, the indicative starting date.

Maximum duration of actions cannot exceed 36 months. Reporting will be required after the first and second quarter of the action.

The period of eligibility of costs will start at the earliest on the day the agreement is signed by the last of the parties. If a beneficiary can demonstrate the need to start the action before the agreement is signed, the expenditure may be eligible as from a date before the agreement is signed. Under no circumstances can the eligibility period start before the date of submission of the grant application.

	Stages	Date and time or indicative period
a)	Publication of the call	July 2015
b)	Deadline for submitting applications- first stage	1st October 2015
c)	Information to applicants	November 2015
d)	Deadline for submitting applications-second stage	2nd February 2016
e)	Information to applicants	April 2016
f)	Signature of grant agreement or notification of grant decision	May 2016
g)	Starting date of the action/ work programme	June 2016

4. EU FINANCING

Maximum budget allocated for EU financing under this call: **500 000 €** to maximum 3 projects

Maximum EU financing rate of eligible costs: up to **80 %** of the total eligible costs of the action

for joint actions involving bodies from 10 or more EU-EEA Member States.

Maximum EU financing rate of eligible costs: up to **50 %** of the total eligible costs of the action for joint actions involving bodies from less than 10 EU-EEA Member States.

To be eligible for co-financing, a proposal must involve participants from a minimum **5 EU-EEA Countries**.

Proposals with an EU co-financing beyond any of the above two maxima will not be eligible.

The Commission reserves the right to award a grant of less than the amount requested by the applicant. In such a case, applicants will be asked either to increase their co-financing, propose other co-financing means or to decrease the total costs without altering the substance of the proposal. Grants will not be awarded for more than the amount requested.

Publication of the call (on the Commission Internet site and/or in the Official Journal) does not guarantee the availability of funds for the above action.

4.1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF EU FUNDING

Non-cumulative award

Each action may give rise to the award of only one grant from the budget to any one beneficiary.

In no circumstances shall the same costs be financed twice by the Union budget.

Applicants have to inform the Commission immediately of any multiple applications and multiple grants relating to the same action. The applicant shall inform about sources and amounts of EU funding received or applied for the same action or for part of the action. Applicants shall indicate if they receive EU funding for their functioning during the financial year in which the action takes place.

Non-retroactivity

No grant may be awarded retrospectively for actions already completed.

A grant may be awarded for an action which has already begun, provided the applicant can demonstrate the need to start the action before the grant agreement is signed. In such cases, costs eligible for financing may not have been incurred prior to the date of submission of the grant application.

Co-financing

Grants shall involve co-financing, which implies that the resources necessary to carry out the action or the work programme shall not be provided entirely by EU contribution. EU financing may not cover 100% of the total costs of the action.

Co-financing of the action or of the work programme may take the form of:

- the beneficiary's own resources,
- income generated by the action or work programme,
- financial contributions from third parties.

Co-financing may also take the form of in-kind contributions from third parties, i.e. non-financial resources made available free of charge by third parties to the beneficiary or to the consortium. The corresponding costs are not eligible.

Non-profit rule

EU grant may not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit within the framework of the action of the work programme of the beneficiary.

Where a profit is made, the Commission is entitled to recover the percentage of the profit corresponding to the EU contribution to the eligible costs actually incurred. For this purpose, profit shall be defined as a surplus of the receipts over the eligible costs incurred, when the request for payment of the balance is made.

Balanced budget

The estimated budget of the action or work programme is to be attached to the application form. It must have revenue and expenditure in balance.

The budget must be drawn up in euros.

Applicants, who foresee that costs will not be incurred in euros, are invited to use the exchange rate published on the Infor-euro website available at http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/inforeuro/inforeuro_en.cfm.

4.2. ELIGIBLE COSTS

In order to be eligible for funding, costs should be actually incurred by the beneficiary and meet the following criteria:

- they are incurred during the duration of the action or work programme, as indicated in the grant agreement, with the exception of costs relating to the request for payment of the balance and the corresponding supporting documents (audit certificates);
- they are indicated in the estimated budget of the action or work programme;
- they are necessary for the implementation of the action or of the work programme, in accordance with the description of the action, attached to the grant agreement;
- they are identifiable and verifiable, in particular being recorded in the accounting records of the beneficiary and determined according to the applicable accounting standards of the country where the beneficiary is established and according to the usual cost accounting practices of the beneficiary;
- they comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation;
- they are reasonable, justified, and comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency.

The beneficiary's internal accounting and auditing procedures must permit direct reconciliation of the costs and revenue declared in respect of the action/project with the corresponding accounting statements and supporting documents.

Please note that the exact scope of the eligibility of costs is defined by the grant agreement, which will be signed with the successful applicants.

4.2.1. Eligible direct costs

Direct costs of the action are those specific costs which are directly linked to the implementation of the action and can therefore be attributed directly to it. They shall not include any eligible indirect costs.

The following categories of costs can be considered as eligible direct costs:

- the costs of personnel working under an employment contract with the beneficiary or an equivalent appointing act and assigned to the action, comprising actual salaries plus social security contributions and other statutory costs included in the remuneration, provided that these costs are in line with the beneficiary's usual policy on remuneration. Those costs may also include additional remunerations, including payments on the basis of supplementary contracts regardless of the nature of those contracts, provided that they are paid in a consistent manner whenever the same kind of work or expertise is required, independently from the source of funding used.
- salary costs of the personnel of national administrations to the extent that they relate to the cost of activities which the relevant public authority would not carry out if the project concerned were not undertaken.
- costs of travel and related subsistence allowances, provided that these costs are in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel;

- the depreciation costs of equipment or other assets (new or second-hand) as recorded in the accounting statements of the beneficiary, provided that the asset has been purchased in accordance with the conditions applicable to implementation contracts and that it is written off in accordance with the international accounting standards and the usual accounting practices of the beneficiary
- costs of consumables and supplies, provided that they are purchased in accordance with the conditions applicable to implementation contracts;
- costs arising directly from requirements imposed by the grant agreement (dissemination of information, specific evaluation of the action, audits, translations, reproduction), including the costs of requested financial guarantees, provided that the corresponding services are purchased in accordance with the conditions applicable to implementation contracts;
- costs entailed by subcontracts, concluded for the externalisation of specific tasks or activities which form part of the action or workprogramme as described in the proposal, provided that the conditions with the conditions applicable to implementation contracts are met;
- costs of financial support to third parties, in accordance with the conditions set by the grant agreement for such financing;
- duties, taxes and charges paid by the beneficiary, provided that they are included in eligible direct costs, and unless specified otherwise in the Agreement.
- costs relating to a pre-financing guarantee lodged by the beneficiary of the grant, where that guarantee is a condition for the payment of a pre-financing;
- costs relating to external audits where such audits are required in support of the requests for payments.

4.2.2. Eligible indirect costs

A flat-rate amount of 7% of the total eligible direct costs of the action is eligible under indirect costs, representing the beneficiary's general administrative costs which can be regarded as chargeable to the action/project.

Indirect costs may not include costs entered under another budget heading.

Indirect costs are not eligible for beneficiaries that receive an operating grant from the European Commission.

4.2.3. Non-eligible costs

In addition to any other costs which do not fulfill the conditions set out in Article II.19.1, the following costs shall not be considered eligible:

- return on capital;
- debt and debt service charges;
- provisions for losses or debts;
- interest owed;
- doubtful debts;
- exchange losses;
- costs of transfers from the Commission charged by the bank of a beneficiary;
- costs declared by the beneficiary in the framework of another action receiving a grant financed from the Union budget (including grants awarded by a Member State and financed from the Union budget and grants awarded by other bodies than the Commission for the purpose of implementing the Union budget);
- in particular, indirect costs shall not be eligible under a grant for an action awarded to a beneficiary which already receives an operating grant financed from the Union budget during the period in question;
- contributions in kind from third parties;

- excessive or reckless expenditure;
- deductible VAT.
- participation by any staff of the institutions in actions receiving grants
- any other costs which have been specified as ineligible in the call for proposal

In addition to the above, the Commission can refuse to finance certain costs included in the proposal. The beneficiary can decide to maintain and finance these costs out of his own resources, but they will not be taken into account as eligible costs.

4.3. CO-FINANCING AND JOINT AND SEVERAL RESPONSIBILITY

The beneficiary has to supply evidence of the co-financing provided. It can be provided either by way of own resources, or in the form of financial transfers from third parties,

Co-financing may also take the form of in-kind contributions from third parties, i.e. non-financial resources made available free of charge by third parties to the beneficiary or to the consortium. The corresponding costs are not eligible. The value of such a contribution may not cover the entire amount of co-financing.

In case of a joint application, all partners shall agree upon appropriate arrangements between themselves for the proper performance of the action.

In particular, they shall accept joint and several responsibilities up to the value of the contribution that the beneficiary held liable is entitled to receive, as stipulated in the General Conditions of the draft grant agreement.

The final grant agreement shall be signed by each applicant. Alternatively it shall be signed by the appointed co-ordinator, provided that a power of attorney has been conferred to this entity (Annex IV of the draft grant agreement).

4.4. IMPLEMENTATION CONTRACTS/SUBCONTRACTING

Where the implementation of the action or the work programme requires the use of contracts (implementation contracts), the beneficiary must ensure that the contract is awarded to the bid offering best value for money or the lowest price (as appropriate), avoiding conflicts of interests and retain the documentation for the event of an audit.

Entities acting in their capacity of contracting authorities shall abide by the applicable national public procurement rules, in the meaning of Directive 2004/18/EC on the coordination of procedures for the award of public work contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts or contracting entities in the meaning of Directive 2004/17/EC coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors.

Sub-contracting for the purpose of the action

Sub-contracting refers to contracts concluded for the externalisation of specific tasks or activities which form part of the action or work programme as described in the proposal. Such contracts must satisfy the conditions applicable to any implementation contract and, in addition, the following conditions:

- Subcontracting may only cover the implementation of a limited part of the action
- It must be justified having regard to the nature of the action and what is necessary for its implementation;
- The proposal should clearly identify the subcontracted activities

Subcontracting does not in any way limit the responsibility of beneficiaries for the implementation of the action. Please note that the beneficiary(ies) should have the necessary capacity to perform the project. Only tasks that are not core business can be sub-contracted to consultants.

It is not necessary to have already selected subcontractors at the time the proposal is submitted. However, cost of contractors not selected in accordance with the applicable rules for procurement will not be eligible.

4.5. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES

The applications may not envisage provision of financial support to third parties.

4.6. FINAL GRANT AND PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The draft grant agreement annexed to this call for proposals specifies the calculation of the final grant and the payment arrangements.

Your attention is in particular drawn to the General Conditions of the grant agreement, where the eligibility of costs is described. Detailed explanations and a description how costs should be budgeted and reported can be found in the Guide for Applicants.

EU grant may not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit within the framework of the action of the work programme of the beneficiary. Where a profit is made, the Commission is entitled to recover the percentage of the profit corresponding to the EU contribution to the eligible costs actually incurred. For this purpose, profit is defined as a surplus of the receipts over the eligible costs incurred by the beneficiary, when the request is made for payment of the balance. Where such a surplus occurs, the Commission is entitled to recover the percentage of the profit corresponding to the EU contribution to the eligible costs actually incurred by the beneficiary.

The Commission may require the beneficiary to lodge a guarantee for grants exceeding € 60 000, based on a risk analysis.

In the event that the applicant's financial capacity is not satisfactory, a pre-financing guarantee for up to the same amount as the pre-financing may be requested in order to limit the financial risks linked to the pre-financing payment.

The financial guarantee, in euro, shall be provided by an approved bank or financial institution established in one of the Member State of the European Union. When the beneficiary is established in a third country, the authorising officer responsible may agree that a bank or financial institution established in that third country may provide the guarantee if he considers that the bank or financial institution offers equivalent security and characteristics as those offered by a bank or financial institution established in a Member State. Amounts blocked in bank accounts shall not be accepted as financial guarantees.

The guarantee may be replaced by a joint and several guarantee by a third party or by a joint guarantee of the beneficiaries of an action who are parties to the same grant agreement.

5. ELIGIBILITY

APPLICATIONS MUST COMPLY WITH ALL OF THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA SET OUT IN THIS SECTION.

5.1. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applications from legal entities established in one of the following countries are eligible:

- EU Member States
- EFTA EEA countries: Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway

Switzerland may participate in the action, but cannot benefit from co-financing, which is restricted to EEA-EU Countries.

The transnational nature of the project must be demonstrated by submitting form A/2 to the submission set duly filled in and signed from the partner organisations in order to confirm their participation (original signatures required).

Several applicants, submitting a joint proposal should choose within their midst a lead organisation, referred to as the coordinator.

The coordinator and other applicants must satisfy the same eligibility criteria.

- Applications must be submitted by a legal person.
- Applicants must be bodies to which EU-EEA Member States have attributed tasks concerning market surveillance, or non-profit organisations which facilitate the coordination of market surveillance activities. Market surveillance is defined as the activities carried out and measures taken by public authorities to ensure that products comply with the requirements set out in the Union harmonisation legislation and do not endanger health, safety or any other aspects of public interest.
- Corporate bodies must be properly constituted and registered under the law. If a body or organisation is not constituted under the law, a physical person must be designated to provide the legal responsibility.

Supporting documents

Subject to the eligibility criteria indicated above, the applicants should provide the following supporting documents to establish their eligibility:

- **private entity:** extract from the official journal, copy of articles of association, extract of trade or association register, certificate of liability to VAT (if, as in certain countries, the trade register number and VAT number are identical, only one of these documents is required).
- **public entity:** copy of the resolution or decision establishing the public company, or other official document establishing the public-law entity.

5.2. ADMISSIBLE AND ELIGIBLE PROPOSALS

Applications must comply with the following conditions in order to be eligible for a grant:

- Applications must be sent no later than the deadline for submitting applications referred to in section 9.
- Applications must be submitted in writing, using the application form and the electronic submission system, as indicated in the Guide for Applicants.

- Applications must be drafted in one of the EU official Languages. If your proposal is not in English, a translation of the full proposal would be of assistance to the evaluators. An English translation of an abstract may be included in the proposal (see Guide for Applicants).
- Proposals must be submitted in conformity with the call specifications;
- Only projects that are strictly non-profit-making and/or whose immediate objective is non-commercial shall be eligible.
- Applications must involve bodies from a minimum of 5 EU-EEA Countries.
- Applications must respect the maximum rate for EU co-financing.
- Applications must respect the maximum amount for EU co-financing.

In this context, will be rejected any project directly or indirectly contrary to EU policy or against public health, human rights, citizen's security or freedom of expression.

5.3. ADMISSIBLE AND ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The internet has fundamentally changed the way consumers shop and businesses advertise and sell their goods and services. Its development poses challenges as regards the safety and compliance of the products sold online and as regards the authorities' capacity to enforce the applicable safety and compliance rules against businesses operating online. However, activities carried out with respect to these products are fairly incidental and uncoordinated. Joint enforcement actions in this area are needed in order to develop a harmonised approach to respond to current challenges, to improve market behaviour by showing an enforcement presence online and to reduce the number of unsafe / non-compliant products available online.

In order to be eligible under this call, the proposed activities should enhance cooperation and coordination among Member States with regard to market surveillance activities performed on products sold online. In particular, the proposed activities should be based on and take into account the expertise of the relevant Administrative cooperation groups. Cross-border administrative cooperation activities which can be covered by the proposals are:

- *online sweeping activities, including the development of a general sweeping methodology*
- *product testing, including laboratory testing (following a common investigations planning, sampling and assessment of risks posed by the products to be investigated)*
- *exchange of expertise, information, best practices*
- *development of common methods, protocols and check-lists*
- *training tools*
- *other cross-border activities aiming at enhancing cooperation and coordination*

Additionally, the proposed activities should cover one or more of the product categories falling within the scope of one or several of the following Union harmonization legislation:

- *Directive 2006/95/EC (low voltage)*
- *Regulation (EU) 305/2011 (construction products)*
- *Directive 2007/23/EC (pyrotechnical products)*
- *Directive 2006/42/EC (machinery)*

- Directive 2009/142/EC (gas appliances)
- Directive 94/25/EC (recreational crafts)
- Directive 95/16/EC (lifts)
- Regulation (EC) No1907/2006 (REACH)
- Directive 2009/48/EC (toys)
- Directive 94/9/EC (ATEX)
- Directive 2000/9/EC (Cableways)
- Directive 2004/108/EC (EMC)
- Directive 2000/14/EC (Noise)
- Directive 97/23/EC and 2009/105/EC (pressure equipment)
- Directive 89/686/EEC (Protective equipment)
- Directive 99/5/EC (R&TTE)
- Directive 2004/22/EC (measuring instruments)
- Directive 2009/23/EC (Non-automatic weighing instruments)

6. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

6.1. EXCLUSION FROM PARTICIPATION

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the call for proposals procedure if they are in any of the following situations:

- they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment of a competent authority of a Member State which has the force of *res judicata*;
- they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the Commission can justify, including by decisions of the European Investment Bank and international organisations;
- they are not in compliance with their obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering or any other illegal activity, where such illegal activity is detrimental to the Union's financial interests;

- they are subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 109(1) Financial Regulation (see section 6.3).

6.2. EXCLUSION FROM AWARD

Applicants will not be granted financial assistance if, in the course of the grant award procedure, they:

- are subject to a conflict of interest;
- are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the Commission as a condition of participation in the grant award procedure or fail to supply this information;
- find themselves in one of the situations of exclusion, referred to in article 106 Financial Regulation (see section 6.3)

6.3. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Applicants must sign a declaration on their honour certifying that they are not in one of the situations referred to by filling in the “**Exclusion Criteria Form**” (form B4)

Administrative and financial penalties may be imposed on applicants, or affiliated entities where applicable, who are guilty of misrepresentation.

By using the “Exclusion Criteria Form” applicants shall declare on their honour that they are not in one of the situations referred to in Articles 106 and 107 of the Regulation (EC, Euratom) n° 966/2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (Financial Regulation).

Please note that, according to articles 109 and 131.4 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) n° 966/2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (Financial Regulation) and according to article 145 of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EC, Euratom) n° 2342/2002 on the rules of application of the Financial Regulation, administrative and financial penalties may be imposed by the Commission on applicants who are excluded in relation to points a) to h) of the form in question.

For grants with a value exceeding € 60 000, the Commission may require further evidence, as indicated in article 143 Rules of Application.

7. SELECTION

7.1. FINANCIAL CAPACITY

Applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period during which the action is being carried out or the year for which the grant is awarded and to participate in its funding. The applicants' financial capacity will be assessed on the basis of the following supporting documents to be submitted with the application:

For grants of a total value < EUR 60 000:

- a declaration on honour

For grants of a total value ≥ EUR 60 000, in addition:

- a declaration on honour and,
- form B/5 provided for in the submission set, filled in with the relevant statutory accounting figures. Other documents may be submitted if needed (see IV.4 Guide to applicants)

For grants for an action \geq EUR 750 000 or operating grants \geq EUR 100 000, in addition:

- an audit report produced by an approved external auditor certifying the accounts for the last financial year available.

In the event of an application grouping several applicants (consortium), the above threshold regarding audit reports applies per applicant.

7.2. OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

Applicants must show they have the **operational (technical and management) capacity** to complete the operation to be supported and must **demonstrate their capacity to manage scale activity** corresponding to the size of the project for which the grant is requested. In particular, the **team responsible** for the project/operation must have **adequate professional qualifications and experience**.

In this respect, applicants which are bodies to which Member States have attributed market surveillance tasks have to submit the following supporting documents:

-curriculum vitae or description of the profile of the people primarily responsible for managing and implementing the operation;

Applicants which are non-profit organisations which facilitate the coordination of market surveillance activities have to submit in addition to the curriculum vitae mentioned above:

-a list of previous projects and activities performed and connected to the policy field of the call or to the activities to be carried out;

The selection procedure is described in further detail in the Guide for Applicants.

8. AWARD

An evaluation of the quality of proposals, including the proposed budget, will be carried out in accordance with the evaluation criteria set out in annex 3 to this call for proposals.

The evaluation procedure is described in further detail in the Guide for Applicants.

9. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Please note that only electronic submissions are allowed for this call.

Please consult the Guide for Applicants for the modalities of preparing the proposal.

Submission of a grant application implies acceptance of the conditions of the grant agreement, attached to this call.

Please note that this call for proposals contains two stages.

First stage: the simplified proposal

For this stage, only the coordinator is formally involved. Letters from the other beneficiaries have to be annexed to the proposal.

During the first stage, the coordinator is invited to submit a simplified proposal. It should contain the main lines of the activities proposed, their objectives, the list of participants and the expected results (maximum 6 pages of A4 format). The simplified proposal should be drafted in the light of the eligibility criteria established under points 5.1 to 5.3. It should be accompanied by an estimation of the costs of the action and of the EU contribution (amount and percentage) requested.

The simplified proposal will be assessed against the criteria set out in annex 3. The elements of the simplified proposals assessed during this stage cannot be modified by the applicant during the second stage. As for the budget, applicants will be invited to submit a fully detailed budget only during the second stage. Variations as regards the estimation provided during the first stage are only allowed up to 20% (and within the maximum EU contribution as established under point 4 of the call for proposals).

Only the simplified proposal will be assessed during this stage. It is therefore very important that it contains all necessary and relevant information, as follows:

- the main lines of the action, its objectives and expected results,
- the list of participants and the letters confirming their intention to participate in the action
- the estimation of the budget and EU contribution

The deadline for submission of proposals during the first stage is:

1/10/2015 17.00:00 Brussels local time

Second stage of submission: full proposal

Following the evaluation done during stage one, 3 applicants with the highest scores will be invited to present a full proposal within the limits of the available budget.

The full proposal has to be in line with the simplified one submitted during stage one, and should extend it by providing additional details on the approach to be used, the implementation mode, working plan, etc. A fully detailed budget has to be submitted where variations with regard to the estimation given during stage one should not exceed 20% (within the limit of the maximum EU contribution foreseen at point 4 of the call for proposals).

The full proposal will be assessed against each of the evaluation criteria set out in Annex III- evaluation criteria for the second stage of the call for proposals- full proposal. This should not be considered as a complementary evaluation; the results of the evaluation carried out under stage one will not be taken into account.

The deadline for submission of proposals during the second stage is:

2/02/2016 17.00:00 Brussels local time

10. CONTACTS

Contacts between the contracting authority and potential applicants can only take place in certain circumstances and under the following conditions only:

Before the final date for submission of proposals,

- At the request of the applicant, the Commission may provide additional information solely for the purpose of clarifying the nature of the call.
- Any requests for additional information must be made in writing only to the coordinates stated below.
- The Commission may, on its own initiative, inform interested parties of any error, inaccuracy, omission or other clerical error in the text of the call for proposals.
- Any additional information including that referred to above will be published on the internet in concordance with the various call for proposals documents.

After the deadline for submission of proposals:

- If clarification is requested or if obvious clerical errors in the proposal need to be corrected, the Commission will contact the applicant provided the terms of the proposal are not modified as a result.
- If the authorising officer finds that those proposals, which have been listed for award needs limited adaptations to their proposal. In such case, these applicants will receive a formal letter setting out the requested modifications. Any such modifications must stay within the limits of the request. This phase will not lead to a re-evaluation of the proposals, but a proposal might be rejected if the applicant does not wish to comply with the modifications requested.

Contact coordinates for the call:

European Commission

DG GROW

Directorate Single Market Policy, Regulation and Implementation

Unit Single Market Policy, Mutual Recognition and Surveillance

E-mail address: GROW-CFT-1125-GRANT@ec.europa.eu

Office address: N-105 3/33, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

11. DATA PROTECTION

The reply to any call for proposals involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data requested are required to evaluate the application in accordance with the specifications of the call for proposal will be processed solely for that purpose by GROW C1 Internal market and market surveillance.

Details concerning the processing of personal data are available on the privacy statement at:

http://ec.europa.eu/dataprotectionofficer/privacystatement_publicprocurement_en.pdf.

Personal data may be registered in the Early Warning System (EWS) only or both in the EWS and Central Exclusion Database (CED) by the Accounting Officer of the Commission, should the beneficiary be in one of the situations mentioned in:

- the Commission Decision 2008/969 of 16.12.2008 on the Early Warning System

(for more information see the Privacy Statement on:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legal_entities_en.cfm),

or

- the Commission Regulation 2008/1302 of 17.12.2008 on the Central Exclusion Database (for more information see the Privacy Statement on

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/protecting/protect_en.cfm)

12. PUBLICITY

Beneficiaries must clearly acknowledge the European Union's contribution in all publications or in conjunction with activities for which the grant is used.

In this respect, beneficiaries are required to give prominence to the name and emblem of the European Commission on all their publications, posters, programmes and other products realised under the co-financed project.

To do this they must use the text, the emblem and the disclaimer available at http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/services/visual_identity/pdf/use-emblem_en.pdf

If this requirement is not fully complied with, the beneficiary's grant may be reduced in accordance with the provisions of the grant agreement or grant decision.]

With the exception of scholarships paid to natural persons and other direct support paid to natural persons in most need, all information relating to grants awarded in the course of a financial year shall be published on an internet site of the European Union institutions no later than the 30 June of the year following the financial year in which the grants were awarded.

The Commission will publish the following information:

- name of the beneficiary;
- address of the beneficiary (legal persons) or reference to the region (natural persons);
- subject of the grant;
- amount awarded.

Upon a reasoned and duly substantiated request by the beneficiary, the publication shall be waived if such disclosure risks threatening the rights and freedoms of individuals concerned as protected by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union or harm the commercial interests of the beneficiaries.

13. ANNEX 1 SUBMISSION SET

The Submission Set can be downloaded from the following page: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/contracts-grants/calls-for-proposals/>

14. ANNEX 2 GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

The Guide for Applicants can be downloaded from the following page:
<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/contracts-grants/calls-for-proposals/>

15. ANNEX 3 EVALUATION CRITERIA

When assessing the below evaluation criteria, the evaluation committee generally pays attention to the elements indicated below each criterion. Please note that these elements, which are indicative and non-exhaustive, are given on the basis of transparency and in order to help applicants to improve their applications.

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND KEY ELEMENTS TO BE ASSESSED BY THE EVALUATION COMMITTEE DURING THE FIRST STAGE – SIMPLIFIED PROPOSAL	MAX. SCORE
1. Relevance	5
<i>How relevant is the proposal to the objectives of the call?</i>	
2. Visibility	5
<i>To what extent will the Community involvement in the project or activity be publicised?</i>	
3. Impact	15
<i>To what extent is the project likely to enhance online surveillance and reduce the number of unsafe / non-compliant products available online?</i>	
<i>To what extent is the project likely to enhance cooperation among national authorities in charge of carrying out market surveillance activities in the area of online sold products?</i>	
4. Quality	15
<i>How coherent is the overall project design?</i>	
<i>How clear and feasible is the plan of action?</i>	
5. Budget and Cost-effectiveness	10
<i>To what extent is the budget clear and detailed?</i>	
<i>Do the probable results stand in a reasonable relationship to the amount of the grant?</i>	
Maximum total score	50

If a total score lower than **30** points or a score lower than 50% for any of the above five criteria is obtained, the proposal will not be considered for the second stage of the call for proposals.

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND KEY ELEMENTS LIKELY TO BE ASSESSED BY THE EVALUATION COMMITTEE DURING THE SECOND STAGE – FULL PROPOSAL	MAX. SCORE
1. Relevance	5
<i>How relevant is the proposal to the objectives of the call?</i>	
<i>How strategically chosen are the product categories covered by the proposal? (Including the use of risk</i>	

<i>assessment methodologies).</i>	
2. Visibility	5
<i>To what extent will the Community involvement in the project or activity be publicised?</i>	
3. Impact	15
<i>To what extent is the project likely to enhance online surveillance and reduce the number of unsafe / non-compliant products available online?</i>	
<i>To what extent is the project likely to enhance cooperation among national authorities in charge of carrying out market surveillance activities in the area of online sold products?</i>	
<i>To what extent is the project likely to maximise the resources allocated to online market surveillance activities? (E.g. prevention of double initiatives, efficiency of the sweeping).</i>	
<i>To what extent is the proposal going to generate best practices to be disseminated and used among national authorities?</i>	
<i>To what extent does the proposal contain potential multiplier effects? (Including possibilities for replication and extension of project outcomes, dissemination of information.)</i>	
4. Quality	15
<i>How coherent is the overall project design?</i>	
<i>To what extent has the project been well thought out or prepared.</i>	
<i>To what extent does the proposal contain specific elements of added value, such as innovative approaches, models for good practice?</i>	
<i>How clear and feasible is the plan of action?</i>	
5. Budget and Cost-effectiveness	10
<i>To what extent is the budget clear and detailed</i>	
<i>Do the probable results stand in a reasonable relationship to the amount of the grant?</i>	
Maximum total score	50

If a total score lower than **30** points or a score lower than 50% for any of the above five criteria is obtained, the proposal will not be evaluated further.

16. ANNEX 4 - AGREEMENT

Please choose the appropriate agreement, which you intend to use as the legal instrument. Insert it in this annex, and indicate in particular the payment arrangements.

- Mono-beneficiary Grant agreement for an action
- Multi-beneficiary Grant agreement for action
- Operating grant agreement
- Framework partnership agreement