

Questions and Answers

Clarifications to Call for proposals for grant agreements for the implementation of CEPOL residential activities 2021

I. Clarifications received and responded before the deadline 22 December

Clarification No 1 – obligation to send grant application (question received 26 Oct, response given 27 Oct)

Dear CEPOL Framework Partners,

I would like to inform you that we have received a request of clarification regarding the “Call for Proposals for Grant Agreements for the Implementation of Residential Training Activities 2021” from France. Hereby I am pleased to share the original questions and the CEPOL response with you.

Clarification No 1 – obligation to send grant application - France

Question: It is written in this call for grants (email, cover letter and Annex 1) *“Every Framework Partner is expected to submit at least one application in the framework of the present Call for Proposals either individually or as a part of consortium.”* However, under the current Framework Partnership agreements, no such obligation has been issued. France stated a clarification request to be sure that there was no obligation to submit at least one application and CEPOL confirmed it (see attached documents, “clarification question 8” & “Annex 6 - § I.1.2.”).

Indeed as far as we are concerned, we have to take into consideration the availability of our partner units before applying for a grant so that we can never be sure in advance of our possibility to implement at least one course. Furthermore, the number of courses we will offer to host under “new business model” may have an influence on the possibility to implement some courses under “grant model”.

Can you confirm there is no expectation for each FP to submit at least one application ?

Answer: I can confirm that there is no legal obligation to send a grant application. This means that if a Framework Partner chooses not to submit any grant application responding to this or any future Call for Proposals in the next four years then there will be no negative consequence of that inactivity.

However there is an expectation from the CEPOL side that Framework Partners make an effort for an active cooperation with CEPOL. That is the whole purpose of establishing Framework Partnerships after all. This expectation on active collaboration had been discussed in several previous Management Board and CEPOL National Unit meetings as well. So the relevant passages of the Call and the cover letter must be interpreted in this way (no legal obligation, no formal consequences but a general expectation for active cooperation).

Let me also add that CEPOL fully understands that a CEPOL National Unit must establish cooperation with the relevant national enforcement forces to apply for the implementation of residential training actions. CEPOL also understands that this cooperation at the national level may be easier to secure in normal times than in the middle of a pandemic. The agency also fully appreciates offers for hosting activities (new business model – outside grants) which is considered as an important form of cooperation.

So in summary: there is no legal obligation to send a grant application but there is an expectation regarding that without any formal consequence.

Please note that **CEPOL will hold an informative webinar on the Call for Proposal on 10 November 2020** (14.00-16.00 CET). During this webinar the main aspects of a good grant application will be described in detail along with the features and the rules of the Call.

Please register for the informative webinar via this link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1655579048538330891>

Clarification No 2-4 – on the establishment of consortium, on study visits integrated in granted courses and on the budget of EU Law enforcement leadership development - Future leaders (questions received on 12, 13 and 16 Nov, response given 16 Nov)

Dear CEPOL Framework Partners,

I would like to inform you that we have received three requests of clarification regarding the “Call for Proposals for Grant Agreements for the Implementation of Residential Training Activities 2021” from Latvia and Finland. Hereby I am pleased to share the original questions and the CEPOL responses with you.

Clarification No 2 – on the establishment of consortium - Latvia

Question: I have been informed that two CEPOL FP have chosen one theme for organizing CEPOL residential activity. Given that, the two institutions are cooperating, it would be quite incorrect for both institutions to send applications for the organization of one residential activity. Therefore, I would like to ask whether the two FP can merge within one country as a consortium?

Answer: Yes, two Framework Partners from the same country can also form a consortium. There is no specific limitation regarding the establishment of a consortium. Any number of Framework Partners from any countries (same or different) can form a consortium.

Clarification No 3 - on study visits integrated in granted courses - Finland

Question: We are planning to apply for an activity on a topic that is very closely connected to another international 2-day seminar on the same crime phenomenon that will be organized in our country in 2021. Since the CEPOL activity and the international seminar would probably be attended by partially the same participants and experts/trainers, we would be interested in having the CEPOL activity participants attend the seminar in the latter half of the 4-day residential activity, and using part of the course budget to cover their attendance fee (respecting the maximum budget for the activity). The seminar is organized by a local municipality, supported by e.g. the National Police.

Would this kind of an arrangement be possible according to the rules for granted activities? If yes, would the attendance fee costs be eligible to be financed by the grant?

Answer: This arrangement is possible as this could be considered as special study visit that is clearly enriching the activity programme. The extra costs regarding the attendance fees can be reimbursed, the rules on the `costs of lecture and training material` shall be applied as these costs are associated with the content of the course. The costs should remain proportional to the size of the group attending this seminar.

Clarification No 4 – on the budget of EU Law enforcement leadership development - Future leaders - Finland

Question: We would like to ask for a clarification regarding the maximum budgets for activities 63-64/2021 EU Law enforcement leadership development - Future leaders - modules 1 & 2. The Training Catalogue indicates the maximum budgets for these activities to be 50 000 EUR for Module 1 and 50 000 EUR for Module 2. Is the specific CEPOL Exchange Programme for Future Leaders participants budgeted separately, or should it be financed from these budgets? In other words, is it necessary to take the Exchange Programme into account in the Financial Proposals for activities 63/2020 and 64/2020, or is the full maximum budget available for the implementation of the residential activities?

Answer: As usual the exchange programme will be financed by CEPOL directly from the agency budget. Therefore the course budget shall not cover the exchange programme parts. The leadership course budget shall cover only the activities direct costs and the personal coaching related costs. As you can see the budget of the leadership activities had been significantly raised compare to previous years. This increase was granted to ensure that the best trainers (often requiring substantial fees) can be secured for both modules of the activity and for the coaching.

Clarification No 5 – signing of documents, electronic signature (question received 10 Dec, response given 11 Dec)

Question: As applications can be sent electronically this year, I would like to ask if the signed documents can be scanned and sent in pdf format? We have an electronic signature, but I am afraid that it is not recognized in all countries and could be problems to open them.

Answer: Yes the documents can be scanned and sent in a pdf format. CEPOL also accepts electronic signatures from applicants as long as these electronic signatures are accepted / valid in the applicant`s country and organisation.

Clarification No 6 – status of the Illicit laboratory dismantling courses (question received 10 Dec, response given 11 Dec)

Question: I am writing to you with regard to the materials provided, concerning the support from the European stakeholders for the residential activities, planned for 2021. I have just cross checked the information concerning a few activities being priority topics for us and I am afraid I have found myself confused.

The main problem concerns the two activities offered as a set - the ones on illicit drug laboratories and the follow up course. For many years Europol offered their support, they

prepared the activity programme and sent experts to take part in. This time there is no indication on the support from their side. Could you please be more specific on that? If they decided not to give any support, does it mean that the applicant has to describe everything, including the programme, the external expertise etc., in the grant application, as in case of the other courses?

Answer: As indicated in the training catalogue under the individual activity descriptions the **set of 14-15/2021: “Illicit Laboratory Dismantling – advanced” and “Illicit laboratory dismantling - follow up” activities remain joint Europol - CEPOL courses** where **the content of the activity will be developed by Europol..** So the status of these activities are not changed compare to previous years. Europol will provide all the experts and the content as usual.

The “overview of support from CEPOL stakeholders” sent on 04 Dec 2020 was focusing on regular type of “support” from EU agencies and bodies (usually 1-2 expert giving a specific lecture on a certain topic). This support is important input but of course much less than having a full joint course.