

Request for Application (RFA) for Full Grant Applications

Youth Actively Create Opportunities Activity

Request for Applications (RFA) Number RFA YACO 03 - 2023 for Full Grant Application Grant package 3: Sustainable Growth Grants

Issuance Date: September 6, 2023

Dear Potential Applicant:

You are invited to submit applications for implementation of Sustainable Growth Grants (Grant Package 3). These include multi-faceted interventions and a variety of creative approaches that address long-term youth priorities and increase youth economic opportunities, competencies, and youth civic engagement in North Macedonia. The Activity implements a local systems approach, which enables forming resource partnerships that range from marginalized youth groups to stakeholders proven to be influential and effective, thus providing a forum for direct business and youth dialogue. You are invited to submit applications to the Activity's initiative in accordance with the terms of references contained herein.

The grants will be awarded and implemented in accordance with U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and US Government regulations governing grants, as deemed applicable by prime U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Prime Recipient Improving Economies for Stronger Communities (IESC), and the Youth Actively Create Opportunities Activity's internal grant management policies.

Sincerely,
Youth Actively Create Opportunities Activity team

A. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this RFA is to solicit full applications for grant activities developed by or for youth across the country. The interventions under Sustainable Growth Grants will address interventions that relate to long-term strategies, institutional capacity building, organizational development and growth, and in-depth impact. The activities in addition to contributing to high-value training and employment opportunities, youth civic engagement, and ensuring equitable inclusion and skills development; should enhance organizational capacity and ensure sustainable growth. Applicant co-investment in the form of leverage is mandatory.

B. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

B.1 BACKGROUND

The Activity headquarters are in Skopje, with program activities implemented on a national level on the territory of North Macedonia. Through partnerships, the Activity aims to support economic opportunities attractive to youth; strengthen youths' competencies for jobs, progressive careers and civic life; and promote values and experiences that underpin self-reliance, such as responsibility, independence, lawfulness, strong ethics, civic engagement, and striving for accomplishment.

The local systems approach enables the Activity to be intentional in forming resource partnerships, strengthen youth's power within the socio-economic system, engage young people in shaping interventions, deliver locally tailored solutions, continually learn what works and is most sustainable and recognize emerging windows of opportunity.

The Activity interventions are specifically designed to relate to and reinforce all three Components:

- Component 1: Partnerships created to support economic opportunities attractive to youth;
- Component 2: Youth's competencies for jobs, progressive careers, and civic life strengthened;
- Component 3: Values and experience that underpin self-reliance promoted.

The Activity does not prescribe sectors or regions for grants or activities beyond excluding those that are prohibited by United States (U.S.) law and regulations, or that are not within the scope of this Activity's work.

B.2 SCOPE OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Sustainable Growth Grants will support activities that contribute to strengthening economic and civic opportunities for youth, supplemented with in-depth change, growth and sustainability of companies, NGOs, training providers, etc. These types of activities may include capacity building, technical assistance, piloting activities, testing prototype models, digitalization, organizational growth, etc.

For example, illustrative activities could include: An organization/company aspiring to grow into a skills related training provider acquires capacity and resources to increase staff, curriculums, facilities etc. resulting in an increase and expansion of their scope of work output; A training provider requiring specific certification for specialized skills, establishing a new department (staff, equipment, etc.) that will train youth and increase their employability, and will facilitate youth entry in the job market; A platform or a training provider that facilitates youth entry into the job market through matching of skilled youth with relevant internship/employment/skills development opportunities; An NGO acquiring resources to implement a nationwide internship and/or career guidance program in partnership with local authorities

and/or training providers targeting high school or university students and/or youth who are Neither in Education, Employment or Training; An NGO designing an innovative civic engagement program that will result in significant number of youth-led community actions. This list of illustrative activities is not exhausted and could include other interventions that are aligned with the stated objectives.

The maximum award ceiling amount, the required co-investment and performance period for this grant’s package is as follows:

Grant Package	Grant Technical Description	Amount	Required Leverage	Duration
Package III	Sustainable Growth Grant	\$ 40,000 - \$ 150,000	at least 25% of the grant value	From 12 to 24 months

The full application and budget should include outreach activities to communicate the achievements and results. Additionally, applicants may include promotional activities and respective costs should also be included in the budget.

Applicants’ proposed grant activity ensures inclusiveness for ethnic minorities and youth with disabilities and propose methods to ensure these groups are informed about the possibilities and advantages of skills development programs and provide equitable access supporting them to overcome language, financial, social, or other types of constraints will be considered favorably. Applicants should consider all the potential costs related to gender and social inclusion in the grant budget.

Areas of attention and illustrative activities for all grants’ packages may include one or several activities to accomplish one or several of Results 1, 2, and 3 listed below. Illustrative activities include, but are not limited to:

Result 1: Partnerships created to support economic opportunities attractive to youth

- **Workforce development programs** intended to affect outcomes related to the workforce or labor market, affecting both male and female employees and self-employed persons that will lead to new or better employment. It includes training; career counseling or job matching for individuals to assist them to enter the labor market, including self-employment; capacity building for workforce development institutions (e.g., Vocational Education and Training or other formal education institution, NGO training providers, or employers); green jobs; support to micro and small and medium enterprises; or other interventions that seek to strengthen workforce development systems.
- Activities that include young individuals who receive assistance and are/will be included or will become a part of the establishment of a **new enterprise**.
- Organizing **Startup Advisory trainings** on themes that include entrepreneurial mindset, business model, leadership, idea pitching, public presentation skills, access to finance, competitive advantages, women's entrepreneurship, and/or other skills/knowledge needed.
- Developing improved **pre-acceleration or acceleration program**, resulting in basic set of entrepreneurship skills for development of business ideas, to lead towards youth-initiated startups.

Result 2: Youth’s competencies for jobs, progressive careers, and civic life strengthened

- Implementing initiatives that support **internship** and practicum with private sector companies, match youth with prospective high-opportunity companies, and increase the visibility of the training and employment opportunities for youth.

- Co-invest in career guidance and/or internship program that will result in **employment**.
- **Soft/life skills training** includes a broad set of skills, competencies, behaviors, attitudes, and personal qualities that enable people to effectively navigate their environment, work well with others, perform well, and achieve their goals. This includes a range of skills that are relevant to a variety of sectors, including but not limited to skills such as management, leadership, social, cyber hygiene and/or civic engagement skills. 'Trained' means that an individual has met the completion requirements of a skills training program. Skills training is as an intervention/session (virtual and/or in person) that has learning objectives and focuses on enhancing a certain skill. A focus group, mentoring or coaching activity, apprenticeship, or internship can be considered under training if it targets soft skill development.

Result 3: Values and experience that underpin self-reliance promoted

- **Civic engagement** activities that include but are not limited to: advocacy work with community and governmental leaders, volunteerism, youth participation, youth led research, etc. This can be local, regional, or country specific.
- Initiatives that are specific efforts or activities that aim to address **social issues** such as anti-corruption, environmental concerns, pollution, climate change, inclusion, or other relevant social challenges. They may include young people actively initiating and implementing projects, campaigns, or activities to promote positive change and address societal problems.

The primary qualifying consideration will be the organization's previous experience in implementing this or a similar model. Nevertheless, the Activity recognizes that some grantees may need technical assistance to more effectively carry out the model. Consequently, applicants are encouraged to specify their needs for technical assistance and/or training in their application.

B.2.1 Environmental, Health, and Safety Compliance

Grant activities such as training events, technical assistance, and academic workshops generally fall within the definition of a categorical exclusion as set forth in U.S. Government regulation 22 CFR 216.2. These activities therefore will not have associated environmental compliance requirements. It is expected that all grant activities will fall within the definition of a categorical exclusion and will require no further compliance requirements. In addition, if funded, the grantee must conduct the grant activity in a manner which safeguards the rights, health, and welfare of all individuals who take part in the grant activity.

The Activity will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of all proposed grant activities prior to the award. All grant activities will be required to comply with U.S. Government Federal Regulations (Title 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 216). Grants will be screened, and the results documented using the Environmental Review Checklist (ERC), in order to determine whether a full Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) is required to identify environmental conditions included as part of the grant design.

In the event of potential adverse environmental, health, and/or safety impacts, the Activity will work with the applicant to prepare an Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) and submit it and the Environmental Review Checklist (ERC) to USAID for approval prior to implementation of the grant activity. After the grant activity is completed, the applicant and the Activity must sign a Record of Compliance with the ERC/EMMP certifying that the applicant met all applicable ERC/EMMP conditions and submit it to USAID for approval.

C. INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

*The applicants will propose their own implementation strategies for the implementation of the scope of program activities described above and in more detail in **Annex I**, introducing innovations that are appropriate to their organizational strengths.*

C.1. Pre-Award Risk Assessment

All applicants are subject to a pre-award risk assessment by the Activity, to ascertain whether the organization has the necessary management capabilities required to handle US government funds. This self-assessment is a first step in the responsibility determination process. The Applicant Assessment is contained in **Annex 6**.

C.2. Full Grant Application

Templates for presentation of both the technical and budget aspects of the application are provided in **Annexes 2, 3 and 4**. Applicants shall present their proposals in that format.

The application elements and guidelines are summarized below:

C.2.a. Technical Application:

- **Section I (Basic Information).** The Applicant provides basic contact information and information regarding the status of the organization.
- **Section II (Program Description).** The Applicant describes overarching program elements such as objective of the grant and the linkage to the Activity's objectives, results and indicators for measuring results, the activities' beneficiaries, and plan for disseminating activity deliverables.
- **Section III (Program Implementation Plan).** This section covers information regarding program implementation, including proposed personnel and descriptions about each task (For Sustainable Growth Grants this should be reflected and be in line with the information provided in **Annex 3** – Grant Activity Gantt Chart). Each task must be:
 - Complete and sound
 - Integrated and scheduled with dependent tasks
 - Assigned to a responsible party
 - Defined in terms of resources required
 - Concluded with a viable milestone of achievement—milestones must be linked to results.

The tasks listed must show a logical, thoughtful approach to the overall implementation plan. Tasks should describe actions and be logically sequenced. Each task must contribute to the achievement of the activity objective.

Applicant describes any relevant material assumptions made and/or conditions precedent required for the achievement of the grant objective.

The implementation plans must be supported by a bar chart that shows all identified tasks over the duration of the activity.

- **Section IV (Experience and Capacity).** Applicant describes previous or on-going experience implementing similar activities. This is a critical factor in assessing the capacity of the Grantee to implement the activity. Applicant also provides contact information of references

that can speak to the Applicant's past performance and capabilities.

C.2.b. Cost Application:

Each Applicant must submit its cost application separately from its Merit Review Application. While there is no page limit for this portion, applicants should be as concise as possible, but still provide the necessary details. Applicants must submit their budget in accordance with **Annex 4** "Grant Application Budget Form" (excel form). Proposed costs must represent cost efficiency and be reasonable and allowable per the federal cost principles.

- **Section I (Cost).** This is a summary of the information provided in the application budget forms, and includes total grant request, Grantee's cash/in-kind contributions or third-party contributions (cost-sharing or leverage) for the activity, contributions from other sources (co-funding) for the activity. Applicant also describes any other USG funding they are currently receiving for other purposes. Applicant must identify any long-term, recurrent commitments resulting from activity, and Applicant's plan for sustainable coverage.
- **Section II (Budget).** The Budget forms, when properly completed, reviewed, and approved, serve as the mutually agreed-upon "roadmap" for activity financial management. All activity costs must be identified. Cost data must be accurate; proposed amounts should not be unrealistically high or low.

It is important that the budget clearly indicate where specific program funds are to come from. (from USAID Youth Actively Create Opportunities Activity funding, or applicant's cash and in-kind contribution that may be met from other donors, program income, etc.). Furthermore, Grantee's leverage commitment will be investigated and documented. In order to avoid double financing/ billing, the Activity will require full disclosure by all involved parties and will maintain contact with co-funders to verify their contributions.

The budget form includes the following:

- Main Detailed Budget

Applicants must include budget notes in the excel form. Each budget note must be sufficient to ensure that the Activity can determine the purpose of every cost item proposed, as well as understand the basis for the cost estimate (units and unit cost).

The applicant must be able to provide backup/justification for cost to the Activity if requested.

All grant activity costs must be within the normal operating practices of the Applicant and in accordance with its written policies and procedures. For applicants without an audited indirect cost rate the budget may include direct costs that will be incurred by the Applicant to provide identifiable administrative and management costs that can be directly attributable to supporting the grant objective.

C.2.c. Additional Application Instructions:

The application (both the technical and cost portions) must be signed by an authorized agent of the Applicant.

Applications shall be submitted in English. The full application should be single-spaced, written in no smaller than 12-point font, and in Calibri or a similar typeset. Each page should be consecutively

numbered. Full applications should have margins of not less than 2 centimeters on all sides. Page limitations are given in **Annex 2 - Grant Application Form**.

Application documents must be submitted in electronic copy (PDF format of originals, the budget should be submitted in both formats PDF and excel) at the following addresses:

Electronic copy	yacogrants@iesc.org
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Documents sent electronically cannot exceed the maximum size 25MB.

In addition to the application forms, applicants should submit to the Activity a copy of the Current Statement from the Central Registry of North Macedonia not older than 6 months and a copy of their latest audited financial statements or copies of the latest Annual Financial Reports. Applications (Technical and Budget proposals and supporting documentation) must be submitted no later than **October 9, 2023** 14:00 hours (UTC/GMT +2 hours North Macedonia). Applications received after the closing date and time will not be considered, nor will the incomplete applications that do not include all required attachments/annexes.

To assist applicants in preparation of the Full Application, the following checklist summarizes the documentation to include in a submission in response to this RFA:

- Grant Application Form (Annex 2)
- Gantt Chart of Activities (Annex 3)
- Budget Template(s) (excel form) (Annex 4)
- Pre-award Risk Questionnaire (Annex 6)
- Current Statement from the Central Registry of Republic of North Macedonia (not older than 6 months)
- Copies of the last Annual Financial Reports or latest audited financial statements
- CVs are required for key program personnel only
- If applicable, signed Partnership statement(s) confirming beneficiaries and/or partner implementers' roles, responsibilities, and contribution to the grant
- [Unique Entity ID number](#) (if the Applicant currently has one; if the Applicant does not have one, it will be required before the grant award).

D. MERIT REVIEW EVALUATION

Applications will be evaluated by an internal review panel within the Activity, and recommendations may be vetted by a larger group. The Activity will assess individual applicants' strengths and weaknesses in the following areas shown in the table below. Your Merit Review Application must not exceed 8 pages.

Criteria Category	Points (100 Total)
I. Technical Quality Criteria	Max. 35 points
1. Feasibility of Design and Approach	15
2. Impact on target group	10
3. Gender Awareness and Social Inclusion	10

II. Organizational Capacity Criteria	Max. 45 points
4. Past performance and organizational capacity	5
5. Management and Programmatic Capacity	20
6. Sustainability/Financial Self-Reliance	20
III. Cost Reasonableness Criteria	Max. 20 points
7. Cost Reasonableness	20
Overall Rating	Total max. 100 points

These merit review criteria elements are described more fully below.

1. *Feasibility of Design and Approach.* The quality and feasibility of the application in terms of the appropriateness of the proposed methodology, innovativeness of the concept, and the strength of the work plan for achieving the objectives. The interventions relate to long-term strategies, institutional capacity building, organizational development and growth, and in-depth impact. They contribute to strengthening economic and civic opportunities for youth and include in-depth change, growth and sustainability of companies, NGOs, training providers, etc. The activities offer significant impacts on sustainable engagement of the private sector in the workforce development system, meet labor market demand for skilled workforce, facilitate high-value training and employment opportunities, demonstrate the private sector interest in sustainable and long-run engagement, and ensure equitable inclusion and skills development. Innovativeness and relevance of proposed practices/models to engage private sector in skills development and job placement. Potential of proposed practice/model to be replicated, and/or benefit the sector. Proposed mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation with objectively measurable indicators will also be appraised.

2. *Impact on Target group.* The level of involvement of different youth age cohorts (age 15-30) and diverse and marginalized groups. The extent to which the proposed activity matches the needs of youth to gain in-demand skills, facilitate their job search and career advancement, help them realize their full potential both economically and civically. Moreover, the extent to which the proposed activity corresponds to the needs of the employers to access the pool of skilled youth, remain competitive and grow. The degree to which it will directly or indirectly stimulate other organizations, such as other employers, private sector bodies, or education institutions, to collaborate, replicate, develop, or implement activities supporting the objectives of the Activity. Projected growth of high-value employment opportunities for which skills training is designed. Value of employment opportunities for which the skills training is designed.

3. *Gender Awareness and Social Inclusion.* The extent to which the funded activity addresses constraints to women’s participation in the high value economy, especially regarding gender stereotyping of certain occupations, and ensures equitable participation of women. This also ensures the inclusiveness of ethnic minorities and youth with disabilities. Applicants must propose methods to ensure these groups are informed about the possibilities and advantages of skills development programs and provide equitable access supporting them to overcome language, financial, social, or other types of constraints.

4. *Past Performance and Organizational Capacity.* Previous or ongoing experience implementing similar activities and/or work experience and positioning in the sector. This examines an applicant's track record, which is an important factor in assessing the capacity of the applicant to implement the activity.

5. *Management and Programmatic Capacity.* Evidence of the capability to undertake and accomplish the proposed activities. Appraisal will be based principally on reference checks by the Activity; the background, qualifications, reputation, appropriateness and skills of its key personnel; and the track record, reputation, and achievements (including development of self-sufficient, sustainable activities) of the organization involved. Also, the extent to which the funded activity will result in building and strengthening the capacity of grantee(s) and proposed target groups in governance, organizational management, program management, human resources management, and financial management to use resources effectively and efficiently and achieve goals, adapt, develop, and consistently improve over time. Extent to which it supports organizations in influencing, initiating and sustaining change.

6. *Sustainability/Financial Self-Reliance.* The extent to which the funded activity is sustainable or will become sustainable by completion of the given grant project or as a result of upscaling. Solid evidence of sustainability must be presented.

7. *Cost Reasonableness.* The degree to which budgeting is clear and reasonable and reflects best use of organizational and grant resources. (Applicants committing to provide cash contribution will be evaluated favorably).

E. ELIGIBILITY

E.1 GRANTEES

Applicants must be formally constituted, recognized by and in good standing with appropriate North Macedonian authorities, and compliant with all applicable civil and fiscal regulations. Eligible applicants registered in North Macedonia may include youth groups, youth serving organizations, the private sector, community organizations, private education and training institutions, professional or business associations, and NGOs and partnerships of abovementioned organizations. Such partnerships will consist of one lead applicant who meets all eligibility criteria.

Applicants may apply for one, two or all three of the available grant packages under IESC-issued RFAs YACO 01, 02, and 03 -2023. Furthermore, applicant's interventions may be related to grant activities under **all three Activity Components**.

Faith-based and community groups will receive equal opportunity for funding in accordance with the mandated guidelines laid out in this RFA except for faith-based organizations whose objectives are for discriminatory and religious purposes, and whose main objective of the grant is of a religious nature.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate successful past performance in implementation of integrated development programs related to the Activity priority areas.

Applicants must display sound management in the form of financial, administrative, and technical policies and procedures and present a system of internal controls that safeguard assets; protect against fraud, waste, and abuse; and support the achievement of program goals and objectives. The Activity will assess this capability prior to awarding a grant.

Applicants must sign the following required certifications prior to receiving a grant. The Activity will provide the certifications and review them with applicants.

- Certification Regarding Terrorist Financing
- Key Individual Certification Narcotics Offenses and Drug Trafficking
- Participant Certification Narcotics Offenses and Drug Trafficking
- System for Award Management (SAM) generated Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) Number (as required by 2 CFR 25)
- Recipient Certification of Compliance
- Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants

E.2 INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES AND UNALLOWABLE COSTS

Grant funds cannot be utilized for ineligible activities and unallowable costs, including but not limited to the following:

- The grant does not include infrastructure or construction projects.
- Private ceremonies, parties, celebrations, or "representation" expenses.
- Purchases of restricted commodities, such as agricultural commodities, motor vehicles, pharmaceuticals and contraceptive items, pesticides, used equipment, U.S. Government excess property, and fertilizers. If procurement of these restricted commodities is necessary, IESC will request approval from the AO and will procure items directly and donate in-kind to the grantee.
- Purchase of prohibited commodities under USAID regulations, including but not limited to military and surveillance equipment, police or law enforcement equipment, abortion equipment and services, weather modification equipment, luxury commodities, and gambling equipment.
- Purchases of commodities or services restricted or prohibited under the prevailing USAID source/nationality regulations per 22 CFR 228 and relevant standard provisions; or from countries or suppliers as may be identified by USAID's consolidated list of debarred, suspended, or ineligible subcontractors at <http://www.sam.gov>.
- Any purchases or activities deemed unnecessary to accomplish grant purposes as determined by IESC, including any grantee headquarters expenses that are not directly linked to the implementation of the proposed project.
- Previous obligations and/or bad debts.
- Fines and/or penalties.
- Creation of endowments.
- Local Value Added Tax (VAT). Grant budgets must not include VAT. All Macedonian organizations should register their Grant Agreements with the Secretariat of European Affairs to obtain the VAT exemption from the Public Revenue Office. Grantees should coordinate this with Activity staff.
- Other costs unallowable under USAID policy and/or federal regulations, such as alcoholic beverages. Refer to 2 CFR 200 Subpart E "Cost Principles for Non-profit organizations" and FAR 31.2 "Cost Principles for Commercial Organizations."
- Indirect costs such as but not limited to overhead or indirect fringe (unless the applicant has documented proof of such rates through audits or USAID-issued Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement). Indirect costs are never allowed under simplified grants.

Grant funded activities must comply with the provisions regarding voluntary participation, consent, and prohibition on abortion related activities as outlined in the Standard Provision "*Voluntary Population Planning Activities*." Funds must likewise not be used to promote or advocate the legalization or practice of prostitution or sex trafficking, however, this does not preclude the provision to individuals of palliative care and treatment.

F. FUNDING

The maximum award ceiling amount, the required co-investment and performance period for each of the grants' packages are as follows:

Grant Package	Grant Technical Description	Amount	Required Leverage	Duration
Package III	Sustainable Growth Grant	\$ 40,000 - \$ 150,000	at least 25% of the grant value	From 12 to 24 months

All grants will be negotiated, denominated and funded in Macedonian Denar. Payments will either be made on a reimbursement basis in tranches corresponding to achievement of agreed upon milestones or in exceptional cases, on a periodic advance and liquidation basis. The decision will be made by the Activity as part of an eventual analysis of the Applicant's organizational capability to manage grant funds.

All costs funded by the grant must be allowable, allocable and reasonable. The applicant is required to make leverage contribution to the grant activity. See **Annex 5** for leverage information.

Grant applications must be supported by a detailed and realistic budget as described in Section H below.

G. AUTHORITY/GOVERNING REGULATIONS

The Activity grants to non-U.S. organizations adhere to federal guidance provided under:

2 CFR 200 "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards" as detailed in the USAID Mandatory and Standard Provisions

Full text of this regulation can be found at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200>. The Activity is required to ensure that all organizations receiving U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) grant funds comply with the guidance found in these circulars, as applicable to the respective terms and conditions of their grant awards.

Please submit all questions concerning this request to yacogrants@iesc.org until **September 19, 2023**. All answers to questions asked at the virtual info session and/or through the e-mail will be posted on the following Activity's website no later than **September 21, 2023** <https://iesc.org/program/north-macedonia-youth-actively-create-opportunities/>

Communications between the Activity and any potential grantee should pass through the direct applicant.

Issuance of this RFA and assistance with application development do not constitute an award or commitment on the part of the Activity, nor does it commit the Activity to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. Further, the Activity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received.

H. ANNEXES

1. Annex 1 – Youth Actively Create Opportunities factsheet
2. Annex 2 – Grant Application Form
3. Annex 3 – Gantt Chart of Activities
4. Annex 4 – Budget Template(s) (excel form)
5. Annex 5 – Leverage Information
6. Annex 6 – Pre-award Risk Questionnaire and Risk Matrices