

Youth Actively Create Opportunities Activity

Grant Program 2024

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Questions related to the YACO Activity’s Grants Program 2024 received via email to yacogrants@iesc.org prior to May 27, 2024, as well as questions raised during the virtual info sessions organized through Microsoft Teams platform on May 20, 2024 (at 11:00 h.) and May 22, 2024 (at 13:00 h.) are presented below.

General questions related to the Grant Program	
1	<p>Q1: Will the presentations from the virtual info sessions be shared with the participants? Q2: Apart from being posted on your website, will the presentations be shared with all the participants via email? Q3: We would much appreciate it if you could share this presentation with the participants?</p> <p>The presentation materials from the virtual info sessions have been published on Activity’s website https://iesc.org/program/north-macedonia-youth-actively-create-opportunities/</p>
2	<p>Q1: Will the recorded info session be available to the participants? Yes, the recorded info session is available on the following link: https://youtu.be/BjnRf9kSxhw</p>
3	<p>Q1: Who can apply on this call? Q2: Does a training provider need to be registered as a training center in Vocational Education Center? Q3: Can we include a partner organization from United States of America? Q4: Is it possible to establish a partnership with an organization from another country? Q5: We are a private international academy registered in the United States of America. Are we eligible to apply? Additionally, we have an IT company that is registered in North Macedonia. As a second alternative, can we apply in partnership with this IT company? Q6: Can a partnership be established between a private company and an NGO? Q7: Can two sister organizations with distinct/different goals and activities, establish partnership and apply for grant? In the envisioned/anticipated project, each organization will have different roles. Q8: Am I eligible to act as an implementing partner, and apply in partnership with another organization, registered in September 2023, that will be lead applicant? Q9: We are a company engaged in web portal activities, up-skilling and job advertisements. Are we eligible to apply?</p> <p>The following resource partners registered in North Macedonia are eligible to apply, i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Youth groups and youth serving organizations – The private sector – Community organizations – Private education and training institutions – Professional or business associations – NGOs.

	<p>Applicants may also apply in partnerships of the abovementioned organizations. Roles, responsibilities, and contribution to the grant, of both organizations, the lead applicant and the implementing partner are defined in a signed partnership statement(s) submitted with your application.</p> <p>The eligibility of above-mentioned applicants differs per Annual Program Statement (APS) and is in accordance with the proposed objectives per grant package.</p> <p>Yes, you can include a partner organization located outside the Republic of North Macedonia. In the event of implementing an intervention in partnership, the Activity will award the grant to the lead applicant, who must meet all eligibility criteria.</p>
4	<p>Q1: Can applicants currently implementing a grant apply?</p> <p>Applicants currently implementing grant activities may apply for a new grant to build-on and/or upscale activities, however the new grant must begin after the expiration of the preceding grant and applications must be received within the APS deadlines.</p>
5	<p>Q1: For how many categories of grants can we apply? Q2: Are we allowed to apply with two different projects in all three grant packages? Q3: Is there a limitation to how many applications we can apply either as main applicant or partner applicant? For example, are we eligible to apply once as a main applicant in the challenge grant package and once as a partner organization in the same package? Q4: Can a newly established organization serve as a partner organization and apply in collaboration with another company that will conduct the trainings?</p> <p>An Applicant can submit only one application as the lead applicant and only under one APS of its choice. Furthermore, an organization can be a partner to more than one lead applicant. An organization can apply as the lead applicant and be the partner organization on other application(s). However, the Activity will award only one grant directly to the lead applicant, who must meet all eligibility criteria.</p>
6	<p>Q1: Is it mandatory to apply in partnership with another entity (i.e., organization/institution/company) or can everyone apply individually as well?</p> <p>Applicants may apply individually, and they may also apply in partnership with another entity (organization/institution/company/etc.) as well. Please note that the Activity will award only one grant to the lead applicant, who must meet all eligibility criteria.</p>
7	<p>Q1: When applying, can schools and other public institutions/entities be considered as partners? Q2: Do secondary schools be partners or should partnerships be formed with government agencies or ministries?</p> <p>Under the Grant Program, schools and other public institutions are not eligible applicants. Nonetheless, partnerships with schools and other public institutions are possible, as per the interventions you will design/plan, with the partnership consisting of a lead applicant who is a resource partner and meets all eligibility criteria. USAID Youth Actively Create Opportunities Activity will award only one grant to the lead applicant, who must meet all eligibility criteria.</p>
8	<p>Q1: Could we apply to extend activities implemented through a previously finished project supported by US Embassy? Also, can we use the same valid SAM number?</p> <p>Yes, you can apply to extend previous activities, only if they meet the requirements and objectives of the published APSs. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number once issued, can be used for all opportunities funded by the US Government. Please make sure that the UEI is valid via SAM.gov.</p>
9	<p>Q1: When implementing a regional project (in the Balkan region), should Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) be included only for participants from our country (Republic of North Macedonia)?</p> <p>Yes.</p>
10	<p>Q1: What kind of document should I submit when applying in partnership? Q2: Can the Memorandum of Cooperation serve as valid evidence or proof of partnership?</p>

	<p>Q3: As a verified training provider, we aim to establish partnerships with secondary schools and universities. Considering the current structure and the approaching end of the academic year, how can we verify/confirm these partnerships?</p> <p>When implementing activities in partnership and/or including an institution or other as a partner, the Applicant must submit a signed partnership statement(s) for the established partnership along with the application. You can use your own document format, and you will need to outline the roles, responsibilities, and contribution to the grant of both organizations, the lead applicant and the implementing partner.</p> <p>Such partnerships will consist of one lead applicant who must meet all eligibility criteria. The Activity will award one grant only to a lead applicant.</p>
11	<p>Q1: If we apply as the lead applicant for one grant package, can we also be an implementing partner to another organization that will serve as lead applicant?</p> <p>Q2: If I apply as a lead applicant for one grant package, can I be an implementing partner within another grant package?</p> <p>Q3: Is it possible for a private company to simultaneously act as both, a lead applicant for one project proposal (intervention/activity), and be a partner organization for another separate initiative?</p> <p>Q4: Can one be a co-applicant for more than one applications?</p> <p>Yes, you can apply as the lead applicant for one grant package and also be an implementing partner to another organization.</p> <p>Yes, you can be a partner or co-applicant for more than one application.</p>
12	<p>Q1: What are the criteria for evaluating the programs?</p> <p>All received applications will be evaluated equally, according to the merit review criteria established for each type of grant package available in the APSs.</p> <p>The merit review criteria and the scores/points are described in more detail in the Annual Program Statements (APSs).</p>
13	<p>Q1: Our organization is established in 2024. Are we eligible to apply?</p> <p>Q2: Are local youth councils operating as an informal youth group from marginalized communities, eligible to apply, although they do not have their own bank account and registration from the Central Registry?</p> <p>Q3: Are newly formed/established entities eligible applicants?</p> <p>Q4: Can a newly registered (1 year old) company apply for the Challenge/ Sustainable Growth Grants?</p> <p>Q5: Can an NGO or a company founded in 2024 apply for Challenge Grant?</p> <p>Q6: We are a private educational institution founded in 2024, are we eligible to apply for grant?</p> <p>Q7: Can newly established organizations, formed in August 2023, and having implemented less than five projects, still receive a grant? The reference to financial statements and similar requirements, suggests that this call for grants is targeted towards more established and mature organizations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – When applying for the Rapid Response Grant, no prior experience of the applicant and/or the implementing partner is required. Applicants must only submit a Current Statement from the Central Registry of Republic of North Macedonia. – When applying for the Challenge Grant and Sustainable Growth Grant, prior experience of the applicant is required. For implementation of these grant packages, in addition to the copy of the Current Statement from the Central Registry of Republic of North Macedonia (not older than 6 months), a copy of their latest audited financial statements or copies of the latest Annual Financial Reports must be submitted as well. <p>Furthermore, eligibility of applicants differs per APS and is in accordance with the proposed objectives per grant package.</p>
13	<p>Q1: We read in the documents that VAT is an ineligible cost, but is there an option to obtain a VAT exemption approval?</p> <p>When planning the grant budget costs, the applicants <u>should not budget added value tax (VAT) costs.</u></p>

	All successful grantees in the Republic of North Macedonia should register their Grant Agreements with the Secretariat of European Affairs to obtain the VAT exemption from the Public Revenue Office.
Questions related to filling out the application form	
	Q1: When providing baseline information, is it necessary to make references to and specify the information source (e.g., research, strategy, law, etc.) and do we have to enclose hyperlinks?
14	Yes, when providing background (baseline) information for the problem you are addressing, the sources of information should be provided, and where possible, hyperlinks to the documents should be included.
	Q1: Are digital solutions of the type of application or platform that solves a particular problem acceptable?
	Q2: Are digital solutions acceptable for these types of grants?
	Q3: We are developing a platform for learning computer programming in an interactive way- similar to codecademy.org. The platform is in the final stage of development. However, we would like to develop a new module for cyber security. The new module would encapsulate virtualization, which means the users/students will be able to open a virtual machine in their browser and perform cyber drills to simulate defending an organization from cyber-attacks. In that sense, we would like to know if we would be eligible to apply for the grant under the EdTech (digital platform/trainings) category? (We are available to provide additional information/documentation related to the product.)
15	Applicants may propose and plan digital solutions, applications and platforms, designed to address a specific problem. In the event of developing a completely new digital solution, special approval from USAID will be required. Furthermore, eligibility criteria for possible applicants are presented in questions 3 and 13.
	Q1: Is it possible to include primary and high school students in the project?
16	Yes, you can plan interventions for different youth age cohorts (15-34 years). According to the identified need, you will present information related to the proposed intervention, its objective, background, the indicators you will measure, the methodology, number of selected participants and beneficiaries, etc.
	Q1: Can association founders be part of key personnel?
	Q2: Is it possible for a key team member to take on multiple roles, such as being both an activity implementer and a project coordinator?
	Q4: Can an external company be engaged for accounting purposes during the project implementation?
	Q5: Can a volunteer be engaged for the financial part of the project?
17	Yes, they can.
	Q1: Do we have to address all the indicators given in the Annex 6: MEL plan?
18	When planning the activities, you can encompass one or multiple indicators provided in the spreadsheet as applicable to your proposed activity, and it is not required that you address all of them.
	Q1: How should we complete Annex 6: MEL plan?
19	Please read the instructions provided in sheet one and the definitions for each indicator in sheet three and complete the yellow field in sheet two or Indicator Targets in the Annex 6: MEL plan accordingly.
	Q1: Can you provide a more detailed explanation of the G1 indicator? Specifically, regarding full-time employment, does it encompass all employees in the company or only those directly involved in the project?
20	For the purposes of <i>Impact indicator G1: Full time equivalent employment of firms receiving USG assistance</i> , “assisted firms” are defined as firms receiving USG-funded assistance, whether formal or informal, for improvement of their business. For the purpose of this indicator, the Activity will count employment data of all firms that have received technical assistance during the reporting year. This indicator measures the size of assisted firms, as defined by the firms’ employment, during the reporting period. A comparison with the baseline, or prior annual data indicates the change in firm size attributable (to some extent) to technical assistance received through the Activity.

	<p>The Activity will complete the FIRMS INTAKE FORM at the first contact with the primary firm (grantee) as well as all the beneficiary firm/s formally engaged by the grantee. The form will include a count of the number of employees by age category and gender in the 12 months prior to receiving Activity assistance, and a count of total employment of the firm. This data will be collected annually, for the duration of the Activity.</p>
21	<p>Q1: Can a pilot projects be implemented within the grant package number 3?</p> <p>The proposed interventions should strengthen youth’s power within the socio-economic system, engage young people in shaping interventions, and deliver locally tailored solutions, continually recognize emerging windows of opportunity.</p> <p>The YACO 2024 Grant Program supports innovative interventions as well as building-on and/or upscaling existing interventions and activities.</p> <p>Please see the merit review criteria described in the Annual Program Statemen (APS) for Sustainable Growth Grant to meet the requirements.</p>
Questions related to filling out the budget form	
22	<p>Q1: Which line items relate to office expenses? Moreover, where should we present the program costs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Operational costs are planned in the following budget line items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Personal (salaries) II. Fringe benefits III. Travel and transportation IV. Equipment V. Other direct costs – Program costs are planned in budget line: VI. Other Costs, Activity service delivery – Budget line VII. Indirect costs are <u>unallowable</u> unless the applicant has documented proof of such rates through USAID-issued Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement. Applicants that do not have documented proof of NICRA, may budget only the 10% de minimis indirect rate. (The type of grant for successful applicants will be agreed during the negotiation phase of the grant process. Indirect costs are not allowed on Simplified Grants).
23	<p>Q1: Can you provide us more detailed information on NICRA? What does the 10% de minimis rate encompass precisely?</p> <p>The Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) (detailed information about NICRA you may access here: https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/Infographic - NICRA 2-14.pdf) is a document published to reflect the indirect cost rate negotiated between the Federal Government and a Grantee. This document reflects the indirect costs (facilities and administrative costs) and fringe benefit expenses incurred by the organization.</p> <p>The 10% de minimis rate is used to cover indirect costs include office space rental, utilities, and clerical and managerial staff salaries (detailed information on 10 % de minimis you will find here https://www.usaid.gov/india/partner-resources/infographic-de-minimis-rate-indirect-costs). This can be used if an organization does not have an established NICRA. If the 10% de minimis rate is included in the budget, the listed administrative costs cannot be included in other sections of the budget and will be covered via the 10% de minimis rate. No supporting documentation is required to use the de minimis rate.</p> <p>Grantees are not required to use the de minimis rate if they prefer not to provide an indirect rate. In this case, costs such as office space rental, utilities, and clerical and managerial staff salaries can be included directly in the budget, to the amount allocable to the grant.</p>
24	<p>Q1: The project manager will dedicate half of his working hours (50%) to the project activities, the remaining part is committed to another project. How should I present the allocation percentage in the budget?</p>

	<p>The budget template contains two sheets, i.e. Budgeting Instructions and Main Detailed Budget. The first sheet (Budgeting Instructions) contains relevant information on eligible costs and detailed information on anticipated expenses and line items necessary to complete the next sheet (Main Detailed Budget).</p> <p>If a staff member is not working full time, the percentage should be indicated alongside the description of the item (column C) and reflected in the calculation of the 'Rate' column (in column H).</p> <p>Additionally, detailed information (on number of units, percentages of involvement, total amounts, market research prices, etc.) will be presented in column O under Budget Notes.</p>
25	<p>Q1: How should we present the expenses covered by the grant and our contribution/leverage?</p> <p>In sheet 2 or Main Detailed Budget, in the Section 1 the costs are shown as follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information about costs are added in the '# of Units' column and 'Rate' column and they are automatically calculated in the 'Total' column (or column I). The applicant then needs to distribute the total amounts in column I in columns J to L as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In column J, should be presented costs financed by the USAID grant o The leverage is inserted in column K and L. Namely, the leverage in cash is presented in column K, while the in-kind leverage in column L <p><u>The total amounts in column I and column M must match.</u></p>
26	<p>Q1: Are there percentage limits by category in the budget?</p> <p>Q2: Is there a predefined ratio within the total budget, specifying the allowable allocation for equipment purchases?</p> <p>Q3: Additionally, is there a prescribed percentage breakdown for salaries, consultants, office expenditures, equipment procurement, and other activity-related expenses?</p> <p>No, we do not have percentage limits by budget line.</p> <p>The Activity has not set a limit for the purchase of equipment or allocation of costs in the total budget.</p>
27	<p>Q1: Is it permissible for the partner organization to have its own budget/funds for implementing their activities, or is it mandatory for the lead applicant to cover the entire budget?</p> <p>In the event of implementing an intervention in partnership, the Activity will award only one grant to the lead applicant who meets all eligibility criteria. The lead applicant will be responsible for managing the implementation of the intervention and the budgeted funds.</p> <p>The lead applicant may have separate line/lines in the overall budget for the partner organization, which must be directly linked to the proposed intervention. All shortlisted applicants during the pre-award phase will be requested to provide backup/justification for all costs in the budget, such as quotes from vendors, or rate verification for staff rates proposed.</p>
28	<p>Q1: Is there a limit on the number of key personnel?</p> <p>Q2: Is there a requirement that the personnel engaged in the activity implementation to be only from the Republic of North Macedonia?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Activity has not set a limit on the number of key personnel included in the implementation of the activities. - The Activity does not have such a restriction on the engagement of personnel only from the Republic of North Macedonia. In case the applicant engages a consultant/expert from abroad to build capacities of youth in the Republic of North Macedonia, this is an allowable expense.
29	<p>Q1: Can we allocate volunteers' fees in the budget?</p> <p>You may budget for costs associated with the use of volunteers (according to the Law on Volunteering) but must not include costs related to volunteers' time spent on the grant (i.e. labor costs).</p>
30	<p>Q1: Will the interns' fees be covered by the project budget, or should their compensation be managed by the organization that provides the internship?</p> <p>Q2: We plan to engage interns. Can we allocate fees in the budget?</p> <p>Q3: Should the cost for internships be projected/presented under the human resources section or as a separate activity?</p> <p>Q4: Are costs for internships activity acceptable? Is there a budget line to present these costs?</p> <p>Yes, you may propose costs related to internships in your budget.</p>

	The costs for internship should be presented in budget line VI. Other costs, Activity Service Delivery.									
	Q1: In which budget line should be project/present the costs for financial or material support for start-ups?									
31	All program activities are allocated in budget line VI. Other costs, Activity Service Delivery. Funds must be directly related to the achievement of the grant objective and be incurred during the period of performance of the grant. If the applicant’s grant objective and activities include support for start-ups, then all costs must be clearly identified, the costs must be reasonable, allowable, allocable and in accordance with prevailing open-market conditions.									
	Q1: Can lead applicant provide re-granting/sub-granting or financing of other entities?									
32	No. The grant does not include sub-awards or sub-grants.									
	Q1: Can applicants provide an in-kind leverage contribution? Q2: Can an activity funded by the National Endowment for Democracy NED be included as leverage in the grant budget?									
33	Yes, applicants leverage contribution can be provided in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Cash and/or in-kind → It may be financed from the applicant’s resources and/or from a partner’s resources → Contributions must be directly related to the achievement of the grant objective and be incurred during the period of performance of the grant. → All contributions must be clearly identified, and all assigned costs must be reasonable and in accordance with prevailing open-market conditions. <p>Funding from other U.S. Government programs/projects <u>cannot</u> be considered leverage. More information about applicants’ contribution can be found in the Annex 4 – Leverage Information, part of the call for grants.</p>									
	Q1: Can in-kind leverage include use of applicants' professional equipment for project activities, also for example video editing and mentorship? Q2: What verification document is required for providing equipment as in-kind leverage?									
34	Annex 4 – Leverage Information provides details and guidance for all cash and in-kind contributions including volunteer services, donated employee time, donated supplies, etc. As per this annex, donated in-kind equipment must be purchased by the grantee during the implementation of the grant. If the applicant already owns the equipment (before the start of the grant) then maintenance costs for equipment can be provided as leverage. More information related to the verification documents required for providing equipment as in-kind leverage can be found in Annex 4 – Leverage Information, in this case the information is available under bullet 4) Donated Equipment and Space, section Back-up Required.									
	Q1: Does the leverage contribution need to be paid in full, or can it be distributed quarterly?									
35	Depending on your intervention and the leverage contribution, it may be verified in full or in accordance with the implementation of activities.									
	Q1: If the requested total budget is below the maximum grant ceiling amount, is the grantee required to provide the same percentage of contribution?									
36	Applicants are required to provide leverage for: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #002060; color: white;">Rapid Response Grant</th> <th style="background-color: #002060; color: white;">Challenge Grant</th> <th style="background-color: #002060; color: white;">Sustainable Growth Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Maximum grant ceiling amount \$ 20,000</td> <td>Maximum grant ceiling amount \$ 50,000</td> <td>Maximum grant ceiling amount \$ 150,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At least 5% of the requested grant value</td> <td>At least 15% of the requested grant value</td> <td>At least 20% of the requested grant value</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rapid Response Grant	Challenge Grant	Sustainable Growth Grant	Maximum grant ceiling amount \$ 20,000	Maximum grant ceiling amount \$ 50,000	Maximum grant ceiling amount \$ 150,000	At least 5% of the requested grant value	At least 15% of the requested grant value	At least 20% of the requested grant value
Rapid Response Grant	Challenge Grant	Sustainable Growth Grant								
Maximum grant ceiling amount \$ 20,000	Maximum grant ceiling amount \$ 50,000	Maximum grant ceiling amount \$ 150,000								
At least 5% of the requested grant value	At least 15% of the requested grant value	At least 20% of the requested grant value								

	In case the applicant requests less than the maximum grant ceiling amount, then the leverage percentage (requested per grant package) will be calculated on the amount requested.
37	<p>Q1: Are costs for procurement of equipment such as machines and other technical equipment allowable? Q2: Are there any budget limitations for purchasing equipment needed for the activities?</p> <p>There are no budget limitations for purchasing equipment.</p> <p>Applicants should follow the guidelines in the Annual Program Statement (APS) section <u>E.2 Ineligible activities and unallowable costs</u> to be informed on the types of procurements. More detailed information is available on the following link https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-22/chapter-II/part-228.</p>
38	<p>Q1: Are training/certifications for the necessary personnel for the implementation of the project justified costs?</p> <p>Yes.</p>
39	<p>Q1: Could a portion of the budget be allocated for acquiring office space? Q2: Is the cost for renting a necessary workspace deemed justifiable?</p> <p>Acquisition of office space is <u>not</u> an allowable cost. Renting an office or other space needed for the implementation of the intervention is an allowable expense and should be prorated based on the percent of the overall space and/or staff time that will be dedicated to the implementation of the grant.</p>
40	<p>Q1: Are infrastructural and reconstruction costs allowable?</p> <p>Infrastructural or construction works are <u>not</u> allowable costs. However, if you ensure reconstruction through leverage, you may plan/use the grant budget to support program activities that align with the grant packages objectives.</p>
41	<p>Q1: We are planning a campaign as part of our activities. Is this an allowable cost and in which budget line should we present this cost?</p> <p>Applicants may include promotional and outreach activities to communicate achievements and results related to approved grant activities, and respective costs should also be included in budget line VI. Other Costs, Activity service delivery.</p>
Other questions	
42	<p>Q1: Are all annexes mandatory when submitting the application/s? Q2: Should we complete Annex 4, within the existing document, in PDF form, or do we need to create a separate document?</p> <p>To assist the applicants in the application process, a checklist of mandatory documents is available in each APS. With your submission, you <u>must</u> include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Application Form (Annex 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Budget Template(s) (excel form) (Annex 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-award Risk Questionnaire (Annex 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (Annex 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Current Statement from the Central Registry of Republic of North Macedonia (not older than 6 months) <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the last Annual Financial Reports or latest audited financial statements (<i>only for Challenge Grant and Sustainable Growth Grant</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> CVs are required for key program personnel only <input type="checkbox"/> If applicable, signed Partnership statement(s) confirming beneficiaries and/or partner implementers' roles, responsibilities, and contribution to the grant <input type="checkbox"/> 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). <p>The submitted annexes must be completed and signed as per the APS guidance and must provide clear information.</p>

	<p>Please note that Annex 4: Leverage Information is <u>not</u> completed. This annex provides guidance and detailed information to applicants related to leverage contribution and the leverage contribution <u>must</u> be presented in Annex 3: Budget form.</p> <p>Please note that incomplete applications that do not include all required attachments and annexes or if application is submitted later than November 7, 2024 (14:00 hours or UTC/GMT +2 hours North Macedonia) will not be considered.</p>
43	<p>Q1: Are the annexes for YACO’s Grants Program 2024 identical to those provided as a part of the YACO’s Grants Program 2023?</p> <p>The annexes to the call for applications are updated to meet YACO’s Grants Program 2024 needs. Please ensure that the correct annexes are submitted with your application.</p>
44	<p>Q1: Does organization registration imply the Current Statement from the Central Registry of the Republic of North Macedonia?</p> <p>Yes.</p>
45	<p>Q1: Is it mandatory to undergo a financial audit, or is it sufficient to provide financial statements? Does a financial audit conducted for only one project suffice?</p> <p>Q2: Is it necessary to have an external audit, or is it sufficient to only provide financial reports from the Public Revenue Office?</p> <p>The applicant may provide either a copy of the 2023 Annual Financial Report issued by Public Revenue Office or latest audited financial statements.</p>
46	<p>Q1: Is it acceptable to submit the application and budget forms bearing a digital signature, or do we have to endorse the documents with handwritten signatures?</p> <p>Yes, the application and budget can be submitted in either version with a digital signature or handwritten signature.</p>
47	<p>Q1: Is a financial statement/financial report for 2023 submitted to Central Registry of the Republic of North Macedonia in Macedonian language acceptable?</p> <p>Q2: Do we have to translate required documents from the Central Registry of Republic of North Macedonia by an authorized/certified translator?</p> <p>Q3: Do we have to translate official documents issued by the government agencies in English language?</p> <p>Q4: Do we have to translate required documents in English language, or it can they be submitted in Macedonian language?</p> <p>The application form and the annexes included in the Annual Program Statement (APS’s) must be submitted in English language, while other documents issued by North Macedonian institutions can be submitted in original (PDF of the original copy).</p>
48	<p>Q1: How many years’ back do you request annual financial reports?</p> <p>When applying for the Challenge Grant and Sustainable Growth Grant in addition to the application a copy of the latest audited financial statements or copies of the 2023 Annual Financial Reports issued by Public Revenue Office must be submitted as well.</p>
49	<p>Q1: Can a company that has been experiencing losses apply?</p> <p>A company that is experiencing losses may apply. However, the financial situation of the company, as presented in the Annual Financial Statements and audits is evaluated as well, when deciding on the application.</p>
50	<p>Q1: Is the timeframe outlined in the call mandatory?</p> <p>Yes. The timeframe must be within the specified period of implementation or:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rapid Response Grant – 3 to 9 months - Challenge Grant –6 to 18 months - Sustainable Growth Grant – 12 to 24 months
51	<p>Q1: Do I have to be registered and have a SAM number (Unique Entity ID) before submitting a grant application?</p> <p>Q2: Is it required to register and have a SAM number (Unique Entity ID) before submitting a grant application, or could this be completed at a later stage?</p>

	<p>If the Applicant currently has the UEI number, it should be submitted along with the application. If the Applicant currently does not have such a number, the UEI will be required as soon as YACO has informed the Applicant that their application was successful, and that the Activity intends to award the grant.</p>
52	<p>Q1: How can I register for a SAM number and is there a fee associated with the registration?</p> <p>Detailed video and written instructions and registration information for Unique Entity ID are available in the following link: https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp?id=kb_article_view&sys_kb_id=7dae8ac61b6c79903565ed3ce54bcb69 To register for a UEI please visit the following website https://sam.gov/content/home The registration process is cost-free, and this number will be applicable for all future opportunities funded by USAID or the United States Government.</p>
53	<p>Q1: We didn't attend the virtual info sessions. Can we apply for grant?</p> <p>Yes, you can. Please follow the instructions in the published notice of funding opportunity APSs and annexes.</p>
54	<p>Q1: To which email address should we send the applications?</p> <p>Applications and related documents should be addressed to yacogrants@iesc.org</p>
55	<p>Q1: Is it possible that you will award the entire budget with the first round of applications? Q2: Does first-come, first-served approach mean that funds could be awarded before the application deadline, if there are sufficient applications? Q3: What is the application deadline?</p> <p>Applications can be submitted at any time between May 2 and November 7, 2024. Applications received by June 7, 2024 (14:00 hours or UTC/GMT +2 hours North Macedonia) will be reviewed and evaluated in the first review period. Whereas applications received after this time and date and by November 7, 2024 (14:00 hours or UTC/GMT +2 hours North Macedonia) will be reviewed and evaluated in the second review period. Hence applications received first will be served first.</p> <p>Please note that application received later than November 7, 2024 (14:00 hours or UTC/GMT +2 hours North Macedonia) will not be considered, nor will the incomplete applications that do not include all required attachments/annexes.</p>
56	<p>Q1: Are last year's selected grantees and their projects published on your website?</p> <p>Yes, selected grantees as per 2023 Grants Program are published on IESC North Macedonia website (section Awarded Grantees) on the following link: https://iesc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2023-grantees.pdf</p>
57	<p>Q1: Is it mandatory for a company applying for Sustainable Growth Grant package to have full-time employees? The company is established in 2018. Q2: Is it allowed a person who is not a full-time employee of the organization, be engaged as project manager?</p> <p>For the purposes of this grant, the applicant may propose regular full-time and part-time employees or consultants to be directly engaged in the grant activity implementation.</p> <p>During the evaluation process, your application will be evaluated against the Merit Review Criteria listed in the APS. Your organization's/company's capacity to adequately handle grant funds will also be evaluated based on the information provided in Annex 5: Pre-Award Risk Assessment Questionnaire submitted with the application.</p>
58	<p>Q1: Should we list only employees, and also include all collaborators? For example, we have 3 employees but work with 30 consultants. Should we submit CV's of all 33 individuals involved in the project or only those who are full-time?</p> <p>CVs are required for key program personnel only.</p>

Q1: Can two distinct/different organizations, a private company and a citizens' association, having the same legal representative, apply for separate grants with different projects?

59

Yes, they can apply and with their submission, they should provide Registrations from Central Registry of Republic of North Macedonia for both entities separately (one for the private company and the other for the citizens' association).

During the evaluation process, both applications will be evaluated against the Merit Review Criteria in the APSs. The company's and citizens' associations capacities to adequately handle grant funds will also be evaluated, based on the information provided/submitted with you application in Annexes 5: Pre-Award Risk Assessment Questionnaires, the staff CVs provided for implementation of activities and the Annex 3: Budget and proposed leverage contribution.