

On behalf of:



of the Federal Republic of Germany

## **Funding Guidelines for the Grant Programme against Marine Litter “Marine Debris Framework – Regional hubs around the globe” (Marine:DeFRAG) of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)**

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## 1. Funding objective and purpose

The protection of marine ecosystems makes a key contribution towards sustainable, socially-just global development. This emerges amongst other things from Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, contained in the United Nations' Agenda 2030, as well as from the international agreement on the "Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020".

The oceans area the planet's largest ecosystems, and thus the habitat and basis for life of a large number of species. The sea furthermore provides highly diverse services for humans. These important ecosystems are however subject to increasing pressures. This includes the input of litter. Plastics make up the lion's share of floating marine debris, at roughly 90 percent. Plastics persist in the environment for a long time, and constitute a threat to marine animals (including living organisms which depend on marine ecosystems such as birds and mammals). They may mistake such debris for food and therefore swallow it, or become caught up in it thus leading to their demise. The Grant Programme therefore focusses on preventing the input of plastic waste into the oceans and seas.

Roughly eight million tonnes of plastic waste are washed into the oceans and seas every year. Almost all the countries in the world contribute to this pollution. Wind and currents transport the plastic waste over large distances, thus creating a problem at global level that impacts all countries.

Plastic waste in oceans and seas is detrimental to the ability of marine ecosystems to function as a whole, and reduces the role that they play as climate regulators, as well as their ability to provide other ecosystem services. This leads to economic losses, and impacts livelihoods. This can be alleviated via suitable waste management in particular, which furthermore supports the Federal Government's worldwide efforts to combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions caused by landfilling untreated waste or by burning waste improperly without energy recovery.

The Federal Government is hence committed to protecting the oceans and seas and their ecosystems against the input of marine litter. The Grant Programme against Marine Litter of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) is therefore funding projects to protect the marine environment by avoiding the input of litter. By funding projects of this kind, the Federal Government is meeting its international obligations in terms of the protection of the oceans and seas, combating climate change, and supporting socially-just, sustainable development. It has entered into such obligations for instance as part of the Convention on Biological

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Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on Climate Change. What is more, agreements have been implemented which were concluded at the highest political level, including as part of the G7 and G20 under the German Presidencies in 2015 and 2017.

With the aim in mind of quickly and significantly reducing the input of litter into the oceans and seas, priority is allotted to those measures under the Grant Programme which tackle areas where the largest volumes of inputs into the world's oceans are made, or which have the greatest potential to relieve the environmental impact in places where litter is disposed of.

Upstream and coastal states also contribute to the volume of plastic waste in the oceans and seas, and are to be involved in measures taken to reduce input. Rivers frequently act as input vectors in this regard, as they are able to transport large volumes of plastic to the sea over great distances. Avoiding inputs into rivers is therefore a major aspect when it comes to avoiding marine debris, and is incorporated into the Grant Programme.

The projects focus in this regard on quantifiably reducing inputs of plastic into the marine environment in partner countries that are eligible to receive ODA<sup>1</sup>. The projects that have received grants via these Funding Guidelines focus on technological cooperation and investment, as well as on implementing policies and strategies in the partner countries, and hence on providing supportive policy advice and capacity-building.

Source-based programmes, measures, projects and investments receive funding for both waste avoidance and waste management which prioritise reductions in the input of marine litter (especially plastics) from land. This also entails knowledge sharing, capacity-building, and campaigns with the aim in mind of creating an institutional, public framework in the target regions<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/dac-list.htm>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.bundeshaushalt.de/fileadmin/de.bundeshaushalt/content\\_de/dokumente/2020/soll/epl16.pdf](https://www.bundeshaushalt.de/fileadmin/de.bundeshaushalt/content_de/dokumente/2020/soll/epl16.pdf)

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Derived goals of the Grant Programme against Marine Litter that are to be used to assess its effectiveness include the following:

- The indirect or direct forecast quantitative reduction of relevant inputs, especially of plastic, into the marine environment in identified significant volume-based sources of input via coasts and rivers.
- A balanced geographical spread of the projects in target areas where a direct correlation between inputs of marine litter and pollution can be established at regional or global level.
- Cost-efficient, effective positioning of the methods in the value-added chain from raw materials, through production, distribution, utilisation and recovery, thereby allotting priority to avoidance at the beginning of the life cycle.

The present Funding Guidelines describe the goals, taking as a basis the common definition of marine debris<sup>3</sup>, as well as the procedure and criteria for the selection of bilateral and regional projects in partner countries under the Grant Programme against Marine Litter.

The Federation grants subsidies to fund projects in accordance with the present Guideline, with sections 23 and 44 of the German Federal Budget Code (*Bundeshaushaltsordnung – BHO*), and with the general administrative provisions issued in this regard. There is no legal entitlement to a subsidy being granted. The awarding authority decides in line with the available budgetary funds, after exercising its mandatory discretion.

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<sup>3</sup> Marine debris is any durable, manufactured or processed solid (regardless of its size) which ends up in the environment, whether deliberately or not, and which is found in coastal and maritime waters. This also includes solids transported into the oceans and seas from the terrestrial environment.

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## **2. The subject of funding**

### 2.1. Technical funding criteria

The present Guideline serves to promote the following measures:

- 1) Measures establishing the regulatory and legal framework, as well as technologies and structures, in production, sales and consumption, avoiding from the outset the generation of waste, especially plastic waste, and hence its potential input into the oceans and seas. This is to take account of substitution effects and transfer effects, so that the overriding goal is to reduce the total waste volume (for instance via avoidance, by increasing material efficiency and hence reducing the resources used; reuse and further use, etc.). It must be ensured in this regard that the project activities do not transfer the input of debris to another region or sector. It is furthermore possible for technological developments of alternative materials and their properties (raw materials, degradability) to qualify for funding if they minimise the input paths and the volumes of plastic waste input into the oceans and seas, and lifecycle analyses suggest that they have a smaller ecological footprint.
- 2) Measures to establish regulatory and legal frameworks, as well as technological and organisational measures and concepts, may be funded for unavoidable waste volumes to help bring about well-functioning waste management systems that ensure that waste is universally collected and disposed of properly, and where possible is included in a circular economy by means of high-quality material recovery.
- 3) Measures may furthermore be funded which reduce the input of plastic from significant point sources that cannot be reduced by one of the two funding criteria mentioned above.
- 4) Capacity-building is promoted in public and private institutions, as is the establishment and enhancement of suitable institutions in the partner countries.

Given the above criteria, the impact of the funding measure on the marine environment is particularly decisive for any funding under the present Guideline. The following aspects are taken into account in this regard:

- 5) Priority is to be attached in the selection criteria to the mass of the overall reduction of the input plastic or other waste (or of the plastic consumption)

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(Mg), also related to the term of the project or measure (Mg/a), and additionally where applicable to the loads (Mg/m<sup>3</sup>). Particular relevance attaches here to the direct reduction achieved by virtue of the project activities. To this end, the project should develop concepts by which this direct avoidance of marine debris is to be measured, and should compare these to the funds expended on these project activities (Mg/Euro) as part of the project.

- 6) The number of plastic particles per volumes of water (river or sea) may constitute a further yardstick for the eligibility of the measures in certain cases. This means that avoidance methods may also be funded in regions proven to have high levels of primary microplastic<sup>4</sup> pollution (whether this has been empirically proven or modelled).
- 7) Relevance furthermore attaches to avoiding the input of litter which constitutes a threat to ecologically particularly valuable marine and coastal areas (for instance designated marine and coastal protection areas), and/or for particularly vulnerable marine species (for instance species placed under national protection, or those on the IUCN's Red List).

In situ extraction measures from the sea are not funded as a matter of principle. Exceptions are only possible if marine debris is extracted the input of which cannot be reasonably avoided with a source-related method.

## 2.2. General project requirements

Measures, investments and projects funded via the present Funding Guidelines are to distinguish themselves both by pursuing a meaningful approach, as well as via further aspects helping to ensure the success of the project, and hence that the funding goals are achieved.

The projects are to contain measures leading directly to a reduction in marine debris. This can be achieved for instance by introducing, establishing and using technologies, procedures and methods in pilot projects.

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<sup>4</sup> Primary microplastic is defined here as plastic which is already less than 5 mm in size when it enters the environment. Microplastic is defined according to the ECHA as very small solid particles (typically smaller than 5 mm) composed of mixtures of polymers (the main components of plastics) and functional additives [source ECHA (2019) Annex XV Restriction Report "intentionally added microplastics" <https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/05bd96e3-b969-0a7c-c6d0-441182893720>]. They may also contain residual contaminations from the time of their manufacture. They may be created unintentionally via abrasion and wear and tear from larger plastic parts, including from synthetic textiles or vehicle tyres. On the other hand, they are also intentionally manufactured and added to products for specific purposes, for instance as abrasion particles in face and body peeling products.

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Projects are to take as an orientation the needs of the partner country and the causes of marine debris present there. Local implementation partners are to be comprehensively involved. Support is to be provided for anchoring the project in the target region by working together with national, local and regional partners, as further described in items 6.3. and 7.1.

Transformative and innovative elements are also to be included. Transformative elements trigger lasting change in terms of structures, systems or institutions which help bring about a sustainable reduction in the input of marine litter. This may involve building on the results and experience collected in pilot projects as part of the projects. The project measures must as a matter of principle be sustainable and verifiable in terms of their impact<sup>5</sup>. It must be possible to check via indicators at outcome and output level over the entire project cycle that the goals of the projects have been achieved.

In order to verify the contribution towards achieving the overriding goal of the Grant Programme, as a matter of principle projects are to develop a concept to measure the direct reduction of relevant inputs of marine litter, on the basis of established methods. This is to make it possible to quantify the direct reduction of marine debris achieved by the project during its term. The reduction is also to be demonstrated with regard to the funds needed for these project activities (Mg/Euro). The causal presumptions on the indirect reduction of marine debris achieved by project measures such as policy advice or capacity-building, including after the end of the funding period, are to be comprehensibly demonstrated in nuanced impact models, and their actual occurrence made verifiable, where possible with the aid of indicators and of a corresponding data collection. It must be ensured that synergies with ongoing and previous promotional activities of the Federal Government are made use of. Furthermore, all projects are to take account of the ZUG Safeguards<sup>6</sup> and of gender mainstreaming in order to ensure that risks are taken into consideration, risk reduction measures are implemented, and universal guiding principles such as adherence to human rights are complied with.

The project outline and the project application or tender must demonstrate the sustainability of the project activities. Furthermore, an exit strategy must be drawn up in this regard. This is to provide for clear steps as to how the project activities help ensure

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<sup>5</sup> It is recommended to use the impact logic of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as an orientation.

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.z-u-g.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/download\\_pdf/Meeresmuell/MarineDeFRAG\\_Safeguards\\_DE.pdf](https://www.z-u-g.org/fileadmin/user_upload/download_pdf/Meeresmuell/MarineDeFRAG_Safeguards_DE.pdf)

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that the funded activities and outcomes are also maintained after funding has been completed, and that the goals that have been achieved are maintained.

### 2.3. Partner countries and regions

The present Guideline promotes bilateral and regional projects in partner countries that are eligible to receive ODA<sup>7</sup>. Regional projects are mainly transnational multi-country projects influencing one or more geographically-joined river or maritime regions. The countries do not necessarily need to border on one another, but their selection as partner countries requires a material justification. With regard to rivers, the river basin or catchment area is also decisive for a logical country constellation. In order to ensure that the project has a large-scale impact, a particular focus is placed on those countries which are responsible for major inputs of marine litter.

The implementation of the projects is contingent on an explicit interest on the part of the governments of the partner countries in working together with the Federal Republic of Germany to avoid marine debris. The first selection stage must involve an initial assessment being carried out with regard to political backing, and a contact/reference person must be named in the administration of the partner country (political partner).

## **3. Grant recipients**

The Grant Programme funds projects of non-governmental organisations, commercial enterprises, higher education institutions and research facilities, as well as implementing organisations of the Federal Republic of Germany, and multilateral organisations and facilities with relevant project experience. The existence of a permanent place of business or branch office, or of another facility in Germany serving the activity of the grant recipients, will be required for the initial recipient at the time of disbursement of a granted subsidy.

Where the project is implemented by several partners, the partner with main responsibility, and hence the initial recipient of the subsidy, is to be named. The partner with main responsibility must prepare and file the application, and thus becomes the sole

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/dac-list.htm>

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grant recipient of the BMU. Filing the application is contingent on the partner with main responsibility being legally autonomous.

Where an initial grant recipient has the necessary administrative capacities, and the design of the project as a whole, as well as the cooperation partners, are suited therefor, the initial grant recipient may apply for permission to transfer the funding to the cooperation partners for project funding. Insofar as such transfer is permitted with the approval of the grant, this is to be arranged between the initial grant recipient and the recipients of the transfer in the shape of contracts in accordance with private law under Administrative Regulation (VV) No. 12.5 re section 44 of the Federal Budget Code.

The initial grant recipient is to also assume financial responsibility for the actions of the final recipients in such cases, and is to transfer the subsidy in instalments. The initial recipient is obliged to verify the interim supporting documents and proof of use of funds to be submitted to it. The initial recipient is to enclose the audit report with its own proof of use of funds in accordance with the General Auxiliary Conditions for Grants provided for Projects (*Allgemeine Nebenbestimmungen für Zuwendungen zur Projektförderung – ANBest-P*)<sup>8</sup>.

The project description, as well as the financing plan, are to provide a breakdown of the envisioned measures for each facility. The qualification of the initial applicant as to the administrative obligations as part of the transfer of the subsidy is furthermore to be described in the project description.

Cooperation between different partners, especially the relevant participation of national partners from the partner countries, is expressly desired.

Individuals and governments are not eligible to apply. Commercial enterprises may take part in implementation within a project as initial recipients or as final recipients insofar as they have an interest in implementation that is not purely economic in nature, and no economic advantage ensues by virtue of receiving subsidies.

No grant will be granted to applicants with regard to whose assets insolvency proceedings have been applied for or initiated. The same applies to applicants who are obliged to submit information on assets in accordance with section 802c of the German Code of Civil Procedure (*Zivilprozessordnung – ZPO*) or with section 284 of the German Fiscal Code (*Abgabenordnung – AO*), or with regard to whom such information has been collected. If the applicant is a legal entity represented by a legal representative, this is to apply insofar as such legal representative incurs the corresponding obligations in

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<sup>8</sup> [http://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/module/profi\\_formularschrank/download.php?datei1=1774](http://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/module/profi_formularschrank/download.php?datei1=1774)

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accordance with section 802c of the Code of Civil Procedure or section 284 of the Fiscal Code on the basis of his/her being retained as a legal representative of the legal entity.

#### **4. Particular preconditions for grants**

Only projects which satisfy the general and special funding criteria and conditions as per numbers 1 and 2 are eligible to receive grants.

The following preconditions must be complied with over and above this:

- a) The applicant must have sufficient staffing and financial capacity to implement the project. The financing of the entire project must be safeguarded. The BMU's annual project funding volume may not be higher than the annual turnover of the partner with main responsibility compared with the past three financial years that can be demonstrated. It must be confirmed that the own funds can be made available. Additional third-party funds or promotion (e.g. grant funding and promotional loans) used to fund the project must be demonstrated.
- b) Grants to fund projects may only be approved for projects that have not yet been commenced. The start of the project is deemed to be the conclusion of a supply or service agreement attributable to the implementation of the project. This also applies to contracts concluded on proviso of the approval of a grant. Applicants must explicitly declare on filing an application that the project has not yet commenced, and that no contract attributable to the implementation of the project has yet been concluded. The BMU may approve the early commencement of the project in justified individual exceptional cases in response to a separate application, without this having an impact on promotion.

#### **5. The nature, scope and amount of the subsidies**

##### 5.1. Nature of the subsidies

The subsidies are granted by means of project promotion on the basis of the expenditure effected. There is no provision for subsidies to be provided on a cost basis.

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## 5.2. Nature of the funding

Projects are funded in the shape of co-funding on the basis of expenditure. Applicants undertake to comply with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

## 5.3. Form of the funding

The project promotion subsidies are granted as non-repayable subsidies.

## 5.4. Eligible expenditure

All expenditure may be eligible which is necessary in order to achieve the goal of the project as part of economical, frugal budgeting. Efficiency of expenditure and frugal use of the funds is to be shown in implementation. There is no provision for placing the grant recipients at a financial advantage.

## Necessity of the funding

No promotion may be provided via the Grant Programme against Marine Litter if the planned project can be implemented without using Federal funds.

## 5.5. Duration and amount of the promotion

The volume of promotion provided by the BMU is 3 to 6 million Euro per project as a rule. Third-party funding that is intended or has already been confirmed for the proposed project is to be demonstrated, stating the respective promotional organisation and the respective concrete amount of promotion.

The maximum term of the promotion is set in the respective call for funding.

## 5.6. Own contribution

An appropriate own contribution and the mobilisation of additional funding to finance the eligible expenditure is a precondition for promotion as a matter of principle. A suitable amount of own funds is to be contributed, depending on the financial capacity and as an expression of the vested interest. Furthermore, cooperation with projects and programmes which are funded by other donors, i.e. not by the Federation, is conceivable. Funding must benefit sustainable development in the partner countries.

Proof of intended or approved third-party funding for the project to which the application refers must be provided together with information on the respective organisation providing promotion and the relevant and concrete amount of the promotion.

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## **6. Other provisions regarding subsidies**

### **6.1. Component of the granting decision**

Sections 48 to 49a of the Administrative Procedure Act (*Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz – VwVfG*), as well as the General Auxiliary Conditions for Grants provided for Projects (ANBest-P) apply to the implementation of the funding activities<sup>9</sup>.

Where there is proof of non-adherence to the preconditions for promotion, the granting decision may be rescinded in accordance with the statutory provisions, and the funding may be reclaimed.

### **6.2. Cumulation**

Cumulation with other promotional programmes of the Federation is ruled out. Cumulation with third-party funds or promotion (e.g. grant funding from UN, EU or *Länder* promotional programmes) is possible where a suitable amount of own capital resources is provided.

It is possible to apply for other measures not covered by the present Guideline which especially pursue purposes of climate protection via other promotional programmes of the Federation. Duplicate funding is ruled out.

### **6.3. Involvement of local stakeholders**

An appropriate part of the funding and of the project activities is expected to be carried out by national stakeholders in the partner countries in order to embed projects in local structures, and thus to make them more sustainable. Implementing organisations as well as contractors which have an official legal personality in accordance with the respectively applicable national law are deemed to be national stakeholders. It must be ensured that political partners are not funded if this would entail budget support without earmarking.

### **6.4. Logical framework and impact monitoring**

An authoritative, plausible logical framework of the project is to be submitted as part of the application procedure. This framework is to plausibly describe the presumptions on the causal links between the outputs of the project, their direct impact on the target groups, and the outcomes triggered thereby, as well as the resulting changes with regard to the reduction of marine debris (impact). Wherever possible, authoritative indicators are furthermore to be allotted to the central outputs and outcomes, and

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<sup>9</sup> [http://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/module/profi\\_formularschrank/download.php?datei1=1774](http://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/module/profi_formularschrank/download.php?datei1=1774)

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rendered measurable with the aid of suitable data collection tools. Regular reports are to be drawn up on the results of the data collection.

### 6.5. Evaluation and public relations

Necessary information is to be provided to the BMU or to ZUG on request, and the latter are to be permitted to inspect accounts and documents concerning the project, as well as to carry out audits. This also applies for the purpose of an evaluation of the Grant Programme or of individual projects of the Grant Programme. Applicants must undertake in the grant application to consent to the BMU or ZUG disclosing the name of the organisation receiving the grant and the purpose of the subsidies as part of its public relations.

## **7. The procedure**

The BMU has commissioned Zukunft-Umwelt-Gesellschaft (ZUG) gGmbH, as the project-executing organisation, to manage the Grant Programme and process the formalities. The granting authority is the BMU.

### 7.1. The selection and application procedure

A two-stage selection procedure is used for projects promoted by this Guideline. Project outlines are submitted in the first stage<sup>10</sup>. The project outlines may be submitted in German or English. A brief description must be submitted in German. Information on the current format for submission can be obtained via ZUG's website<sup>11</sup>. ZUG will preselect projects which are promising in terms of their topic among all the outlines which meet the mandatory preconditions mentioned below. These will be assessed using the formal and technical criteria described in the present Funding Guidelines (especially number 2), as well as in the following preconditions and criteria.

- Applicant's aptitude:
  - compliance with the preconditions for aptitude as the partner with main responsibility stated in number 3 of the present Guideline
- Target region

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<sup>10</sup> <https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline/easyOnline.jsf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.z-u-g.org/aufgaben/foerderprogramm-gegen-meeresmuell/s>

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- The role of the target region is generally taken into account with regard to inputs of litter into the oceans and seas and own efforts to reduce these, as well as cooperation with Germany in the past.
- Suitability of the project:
  - largely complies with one or more thematic funding criteria (see number 2 of the present Guideline)
  - transformation impact, level of ambition and potential of the project for success (in terms of technology, economy, method, institution)
  - ambitious goals aligned to measureable outcomes
  - relevant to the implementation of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 14 (Life Below Water)
  - coherence with and embedding in national and/or regional/cross-border strategies, international cooperation, as well as synergies with other projects and sectors
  - explicit interest of the partner governments
  - contribution towards the creation of suitable policy frameworks for the long-term avoidance of marine debris in the partner country
  - extensive inclusion/commissioning of local implementation partners
  - cooperation with national, local and regional partners to anchor the project in the target region
  - contribution towards economic and social development in the partner country
  - coherence of the concept, quality of the presentation, as well as of the anticipated project management and monitoring
  - sustainability of the impact (including exit strategy), and where possible replicability of the concept and/or of the outcome; naming those measures which promote sustainability (e.g. funding volume decreasing over the course of the project)
  - consideration of the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of the use of funds
  - coherent distribution of tasks and roles, as well as of the allocation of the budget as a whole, between the partners.

Projects which have any of the following characteristics will be excluded from promotion:

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- outlines not submitted in time
- funding not needed
- partner country or countries not recognised as eligible to receive ODA
- no match with thematic funding criteria
- funding volume too high or too low (3 to 6 million Euro per project as a matter of principle)
- project implementation has already commenced prior to submission of outline
- no connection with national/regional policies
- political backing not possible
- impact monitoring and OECD impact logic (output, outcome, impact) not applied
- promotion requested for services that have been ruled out
- safeguards not taken into account

On the basis of the outcome of the assessment and of the budgetary funds available, and considering environmental, foreign and development policy coherence, the BMU makes the decision as to which outlines are to be pursued in the second stage of the procedure.

The second stage involves those partners with main responsibility whose outlines were successful being called on to submit a detailed project application (initiation of the second stage of the procedure). The partner with main responsibility subsequently has 12 weeks in which to submit the grant application, on which the BMU will decide after carrying out a final assessment. The relevant provisions and templates to be taken into consideration here will be announced on conclusion of the first stage of the procedure.

Applications for funding may as a matter of principle not be processed until all the necessary documents have been submitted for the administrative and the technical assessment.

Applications will only be accepted for assessment if they

- a) are complete, that is which include the correct application form, including all the necessary annexes which are needed in order to assess and evaluate the project,
- b) are free of contradictions.

The submission of a written application may not be deemed to constitute a legal entitlement to promotion.

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### Call for funding

Project outlines may only be submitted as part of a call for funding. Calls for funding are published on the website of the BMU, and are time-limited.

### 7.2. Procedure for the proof of use of funds

The procedure for the proof of use of funds is governed by the administrative provisions re section 44 of the Federal Budget Code and the General Auxiliary Conditions for Grants provided for Projects.

### 7.3. Provisions to be complied with

Sections 48 to 49a of the German Administrative Procedure Act (*Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz - VwVfG*), sections 23 and 44 of the Federal Budget Code, and the general administrative provisions issued regarding these, apply to the approval, disbursement and accounting of the grant, as well as to proof and verification of the use and where appropriate the necessary rescission of the granting decision and the reclaiming of the subsidy that has been granted.

The Federal Court of Audit is entitled to audit the grant recipients in accordance with section 91 of the Federal Budget Code.

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## **8. Validity**

The present Funding Guidelines enter into force on 6 July 2021, and will apply until 31 December 2025.