

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for your interest in our request for application (RFA) and for your inquiries about it. Below are the answers to your questions.

- **Does the curriculum need to include professional skills in the light industry?**

No, familiarity with the industry or expertise in the field of light industry will be an advantage for organizations applying for the competition. However, it is not a mandatory requirement for candidates wishing to participate. It's important to note that the team involved in implementing the grant's main activities should possess theoretical and practical expertise to effectively support youth-led business start-ups.

- **Are you considering a hybrid format of events? For example, offline training with online mentoring for participants?**

The start-up school should be held offline (in person) to provide participants with focused support. However, mentoring support after the event can be provided online.

- **Should we focus on specific regions, or can the Startup School accept participants from all over Ukraine?**

We aim to attract participants from all regions of Ukraine, with a particular focus on areas currently underserved by similar events and deemed relatively safe for the program. Specifically, we are targeting the following regions: Zhytomyr, Rivne, Volyn, Chernihiv, Khmelnytsky, Chernivtsi, and Vinnytsia oblasts.

Additionally, please note that the organization applying for participation in the competition must be registered and operate exclusively within Ukraine's territory. Participants will be selected, and financial support will be granted solely to young people (both male and female, aged 18-25) who reside in and plan to conduct their activities exclusively within Ukraine's territory.

- **Does the organization have to submit CVs for its employees all at once?**

We emphasize the importance of carefully reviewing the selection criteria outlined for organizations to assess their capacity to implement the grant and achieve the main objectives. As stated in our application terms, we evaluate applicants based on the following key indicators:

- **Availability of a professional team:** Therefore, we recommend submitting CVs (contracts, if applicable, staffing tables, etc.) of all experts and specialists who will be involved in the grant implementation.
- **Experience in implementing grants:** Consequently, we require information on the organization's grant history in any form (details of all past and current grants, including donor names, grant amounts, implementation timelines, grant titles, purposes, and key achievements). Note: The winning organization will need to provide budgets of existing grants to prepare documentation for donor approval.
- **Legal documents:** These include scanned copies of the organization's charter, an extract from the EDRPOU (Unified State Register of Legal Entities), a certificate of non-profit status (for NGOs and charitable organizations), an extract on the appointment of the organization's head, a bank certificate confirming the availability of an account, etc.
- **Other indicators:** Further details can be found in the RFA (Request for Applications) in Section 5, titled "Application Evaluation."
- **It is not quite clear in the description for when and for what purpose! Please, can we get some information? Are we suitable for this programme? Thank you for your reply! We are located in Kyiv Most of our team from Donetsk had to leave their homes due to the hostilities. We are sole proprietors of the 2nd and 3rd groups. We are engaged in the production of clothing, we have two ateliers, a workshop in the centre of Kyiv, a school for cutting and sewing courses. We are developing a multilingual app for ateliers, couriers, and home-based seamstresses.**

We invite interested organisations (e.g., charities, NGOs, research institutions, etc.) to apply for a grant to organise strategic sessions and provide further support and guidance to young men and women (18-25 years old) setting up their own businesses. The applicant must have experience implementing grants and a professional team with theoretical and practical skills in organising and supporting start-ups.

Questions regarding the main organizational issues are covered in the answers above.

**Please note:** The deadline for submitting documents for the Supporting Youth Entrepreneurs in the Light Industry competition **has been extended to 12 April 2024.**