

The Water Integrity Network Small Grants Fund

1. Objectives of the Fund

The overarching goal of the Fund is to stimulate and support local actions to fight corruption in the water sector, and thereby reduce poverty. It is targeted to Civil Society organisation (CSO) members of the WIN working in developing and transition countries. Individual WIN Members may affiliate with a member CSO to apply.

Among the multiple objectives are:

- (i) empowering water CSOs to work in partnership with CSOs involved in anti-corruption and governance reform;
- (ii) enabling CSOs to draw on an independent source of financing for anti-corruption work, where it is important to retain independence; and
- (iii) Improving understanding of practical, collaborative approaches, tools and methodologies to detect and prevent corruption in the water sector using an inclusive approach.

Further aims are to stimulate and highlight the valuable role that CSOs can play in improving anti-corruption performance of public sector institutions in water, and steps to imbed governance improvement mechanisms in public partnership arrangements with communities and the private sector.

2. Description of the Pilot Phase

In 2008 we plan to award five (5) Small Grants up to €20,000 each, and ten (10) Micro Grants of up to €2,000 each to support local actions. The grants will be competitively awarded based on a transparent evaluation of applications received.

The actual number of micro and small grants awarded in 2008 will depend on the average Euro amount of successful grant applicants.

The WIN Secretariat will manage all aspects of the process to invite applications from WIN membership, to select and award grants and to evaluate outcomes. Voluntary Advisors, nominated by the Interim Steering Committee will assist the Secretariat.

An open and transparent process will be followed to maximize shared learning. At the end of 2008 all grant recipients and WIN members will be invited to comment on enhancements to the operation manual and Fund approach for future years.

3. What are the eligibility criteria?

Applicants: CSOs must be legally constituted and registered according to laws in their respective home country. And they must have by-laws to enable them to enter into

agreements with the Executing Agency (Transparency International). Members of WIN who are not CSO's may affiliate with a member CSO to apply.

Actions: Local actions supported included research, documentation, preparation or input strategic/policy studies, capacity building, field testing of new methodologies, inclusion of anti-corruption measures in existing projects through CSO involvement and other local actions to promote transparency, accountability and integrity in the water sector, and thereby reduce poverty. Actions that promote coalition building between water sector and governance actors are particularly encouraged.

Expenditures: Small grants can cover:

- financial support (e.g. travel costs, printing and publication, cost of convening seminars, etc.), and
- technical assistance support (e.g. fees and travel expenses for experienced local, regional or international experts). Preference will be given to use of national and regional experts, where feasible, to reduce costs and promote capacity building

Micro grants shall be limited to financial support.

Small grants may be for any amount above €10,000 up to €20,000. Micro grants are for amounts between €1000 and €2000.

Timing: All grants must be committed to local actions with completion dates in 2008. Micro grants are intended to support activities of no more than three (3) months duration.

Exclusions: Resources of the Fund shall not be granted for (i) recurrent expenditures of the Applicant (ii) general administrative expenditures of the Applicant (iii) procurement of office equipment or motorized vehicles of any type, and (iv) investment in physical infrastructure (construction, land property and durable equipment).

The Fund does not finance initiatives limited to training or other institution-building activities that would affect corruption only indirectly. Additionally, the Fund will not finance activities investigating alleged specific instances of corruption – instead, the aim is to strengthen the role and capacity of CSO's in preventing corruption in the water sector.

5. How to Apply for a Grant?

Applications forms can be downloaded clicking below. Or you can ask the WIN Secretariat to email you a form.

- Form 1: Micro Grant – Up to 2,000 Euros
- Form 2: Small Grant – Up to 20,000 Euros

Information on how to submit the applications is printed on the application form. Applications can be sent to the Secretariat by e-mail attachment, by fax or by mail.

6. What are the application deadlines?

Micro grant applications may be submitted anytime. Micro grant applications will be evaluated continuously on a first-come, first-served basis until the available funds are committed.

Applications for small grants may be submitted anytime as well. However, there will be two formal cycles for the evaluation of the small grant applications in the pilot year.

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| First Deadline: | 15 March 2008 |
| Second Deadline: | 15 May 2008 |

Any small grant application received after 15 March 2008 will automatically be considered in the second evaluation cycle.

The Secretariat will show the status of all applications received on the WIN website and update that on a weekly basis.

6. What screening and evaluation criteria are applied?

A screening and ranking process will be applied for both micro and small grants. Screening criteria for micro and small grants are similar. Screening criteria include:

- applicant's eligibility
- eligible activities
- completeness
- timeframe
- monitor able outcome,
- thematic relevance,
- conflict of interest and
- applicant's counterpart contribution (small grants).

Micro Grants are intended as quick deployment and Micro Grant evaluation criteria place emphasis on the quality and practicality of the action proposed, rather than previous institutional experience of the CSO. We see this as being important to encourage new CSOs.

Five types of criteria to evaluate the small grants include (1) technical merits of the action (2) degree and quality of collaboration involved (3) practicalities of implementation (4) institutional or organizational capacity, and (5) potential valued added for the Network.

7. Is there assistance with preparing applications?

WIN recognizes that some CSOs may lack experience in project formulation and preparing grant applications. Proposals are intended to be competitive, but if necessary, technical questions will be sent to the Advisors to respond to applicants

8. What do we ask in return?

A completed application form: Participants are asked to prepare and submit a completed application form. As part of this, applicants are invited to name organization(s) in your home country or international NGOs working in your country as a reference, to endorse the application. You will be responsible for arranging support letters, where feasible.

Counterpart contributions. Micro grants have no stipulation on matching contributions. It is expected that small grant applicants would propose some counterpart contribution for at least 20 percent (20%) of the total cost of the action. This may be in cash and/or in kind (e.g. administrative support, in terms of staff time, access to office technology etc.). Proposals for a lower matching financing share on small grants would require justification.

Grant Agreement Letters: For successful applications, the WIN Secretariat will prepare a grant agreement letter which will be signed by the recipients and Transparency International, acting on behalf of WIN. The Grant agreement letter will contain terms and conditions to be mutually agreed. Details are provided in the operational manual.

Progress reports: Unless otherwise specified in agreement letters, Recipients will be asked to provide one-page monthly reports to indicate progress and any difficulties encountered.

Completion Reports: at the completion of each action Recipients will be asked to provide a completion report consisting of a narrative summary of the action suitable for inclusion on the Win website or in newsletters, a self-evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of the action and financial reporting as stipulated in the grant agreement

9. Need more details?

For further information about the Fund or your applications please contact the WIN Secretariat at info@waterintegritynetwork.net or call us by Phone at +49-30-3438-40

We look forward to hearing from you very soon!