

EOL – Operational Component 3

Most asked questions

This document is subject to revisions and updates based on new questions posed by prospective applicants. Check <https://educationoutloud.org/grants/open-now-open-call-concept-notes-component-3> for the most recent version

Questions of common interest received from applicants and other stakeholders are addressed and answered under the following main headings:

Eligibility issues

Q 1: Is it possible for an organization to apply for funds under two umbrellas? For example, if an organization has applied for the EOL funds in one OC as an individual organization, can it be the lead applicant in another OC, e.g. OC3?

A 1: Organizations can only receive funding from one OC. Thus, an organization receiving funds for activities from one OC will not be able to receive additional funding from another OC. However, organizations participating as strategic collaborating partners in OC 3, will still be eligible for OC 2.

Q 2: Can members of a network, which will be participating in EOL activities under OC3, also participate under OC2. If for example, a national coalitions network gets funded under OC3 with some of its national members, will they be eligible under OC2 to provide leverage to the overall network partly funded under OC3?

A 2: OC3 applicants receiving financial support through an EOL grant cannot receive additional funding from other EOL budget lines, e.g. OC2. However, individual organisations may still join an alliance as a strategic partner offering additional leverage to the alliance without benefitting from financial support.

Q 3: Can members of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) that have been financed under OC1 participate as part of an alliance outside of GCE in OC3 if it is demonstrated how this help leverage the funding already received under EOL OC1?

A 3: OC1 Grantees can only participate in an alliance in OC3 (open call) as national partners for strategic collaboration, while it should be demonstrated how this will leverage funding received. E.g. a national coalition can be a strategic in-country partner of an OC3 applicant to leverage its access to policy spaces to ensure that the regional/global advocacy is rooted in national evidence and has strong links with national education sector plans.

Q 4: Are there limitations on how many concept notes/alliances an organization can join? E.g. can an organization be the lead applicant on one concept note and join as a partner (non-lead) in another as long as the funding requested is not duplicative?

A 4: An organization can be part of more than one concept note/alliance, but in subsequent applications this can only be as a strategic collaborating partner without receiving any funding. If it is submitting two proposals as full fund receiving alliance member, only one proposal will be considered for approval.

Q5: Can a private company qualify as a civil society actor and participate in an alliance?

A5: The alliances in OC3 must be made up of civil society organizations. Private companies are not eligible for EOL funding.

Q 6: Can strategic partners be participants in the activities outlined without receiving funding?

A 6: Yes, partners for strategic collaboration will support broader outreach of the project and can very well participate in activities without receiving funding.

Q 7: The guidance indicates that proposals should be submitted by a single organization as the lead applicant. Does a single organization imply a single organization on behalf of the alliance (the lead applicant) or a maximum of one proposal per organization? i.e. is it possible for an organization to be the lead applicant of 3 separate alliances in 3 regions (Asia, eastern Africa, and western Africa)?

A 7: Referring to a single organization means that one single organization should be submitting the proposal as the lead of an alliance made up as described in the Guidelines for Applicants p.4-5. An organization can only receive funding for one proposal but can participate in other proposals as partner for strategic collaboration. If an organization submits more than one proposal as lead applicant, only one will be eligible for funding. An organization can only be eligible for funding for one proposal as lead but can participate in other proposals as partner for strategic collaboration without receiving financial support.

Q 8: A call for proposal may be launched for OC2 while year zero for OC3 is still in process. In this situation will it still be possible to submit a concept note for OC2?

A 8: Yes, as year zero doesn't automatically lead to approval, a concept note for another OC being launched during the year zero period can be submitted. However, all eligibility terms for each OC are still fully applicable, which might lead to not being eligible for one OC application if/when the other proposal is approved.

What can be funded – Assessment of focus

Q 1: Can a proposal that includes partner/alliance identification as part of the project itself be funded? In other words, do all partners in the alliance need to be identified at the concept note stage, or could they be identified during year zero, or as part of the implementation of the project?

A 1: The alliance and the proposed core alliance partners must, as a central part of the proposal strategy, be presented in the concept note. However, identification of additional or other partners, for instance as part of new insights/understanding of a contextualized theory of change, could be part of the year zero process and thus included in the final proposal.

Q 2: Must a project proposed necessarily address all levels, local, subnational, national and transnational, or can a project focus on one or two levels?

A 2: OC3 aims at opening up transnational policy debates to citizen voices and to engage more civic representatives and hereby broaden and include important local realities in transnational education policy and debate arenas. Thus, this vertical involvement focuses on connecting actions and activities across levels from local to transnational and support changes in global, regional or national policies and/or practices and strengthen social accountability mechanisms. Given their respective thematic

focus applicants should argue what are the relevant levels of intervention; it is not a requirement to engage at all the mentioned levels.

Q 3: Are civil society organizations that have prior capacity building needs prioritized in this CfP?

A 3: No that is not specifically prioritized. What will be assessed is the ability of each applicant alliance to thoroughly describe a learning approach and present an assessment of relevant learning needs for the alliance and alliance development. As noted in the guidelines it will be considered favorable if the Alliance: includes actors not traditionally working in education but that have education as a cross-sectoral priority; includes actors not traditionally working in education but that have skills and tools which are relevant and/or scalable in education; reflects a diversity of approaches to advocacy which are complementary and will strengthen the wider education movement

Q 4: Must the proposed project contribute to all 5 OC3 outcomes or can applicants focus on only some?

A 4: The proposals for projects in OC3 should align as much as possible to the OC3 outcomes, however it is not a requirement that all 5 OC3 outcomes are addressed. It should be made clear which outcomes the project is planned to produce results in, and why the proposed strategy has been chosen.

Q 5: Can the partner alliance be made of national organizations only? And is it accepted to have national activities only if connection to global and regional arenas are shown?

A 5: Applicants must demonstrate that their interventions will address issues that are most effectively dealt with by choosing a transnational multi-level approach. It is not expected that alliances will confine themselves to activities at the national level only.

Q 6: Is it possible to work on several SDG 4 targets?

A 6: Yes.

Coverage, geographical and organizational

Q 1: How many regions and GPE countries listed in Annex 1 need to be represented through the core civil society organizations applying?

A 1: At least one organization in the alliance should be established in a current GPE partner country. However, the proposal should also address a problem which affects several GPE countries.

Q 2: Is there a minimum number of countries for an engagement to be considered transnational?

A 2: There is no minimum number of countries for an engagement to be considered transnational, however, what is important is that the proposal convincingly present a strategy for meeting the aims and objectives of OC3.

Q 3: Can organizations from countries which are not GPE partners (e.g. Argentina and Morocco) be included in the projects funded by OC3?

A 3: Such organizations can be part of the proposed alliance, but at least one organization should be established in a current GPE partner country And the proposed strategy/solution should address problems existing in multiple GPE partner countries.

Q 4: What does the term "vertically integrated" civil society alliance mean? What is meant by "vertical integration" and "constituency-based networks"?

A 4: "Vertical integration" is understood to be inclusive alliances allowing for elevation of traditionally local/national voices into transnational policy arenas, and the coordination of citizen action across local, subnational, national and transnational

levels. Vertically integrated memberships and issue- or constituency-based networks, can for example be teachers' or youth networks with membership spanning from the grassroots to international.

Q 5: How will coverage be assessed in the approval process? Is EOL looking for a global spread of projects? Or are there specific or fixed funding pots/envelopes for each region?

A 5: There are no region-specific fixed funding pots/envelopes. Global balancing will be part of the criteria for first round of CfP assessments and will feed into learnings used for planning of a second round of CfP.

Q 6: When writing regions, does that mean continents or sub-regions within a continent? Please specify.

A 6: In the context of OC3, regions can be taken to mean 'sub-regions', e.g. West Africa or Central America – or it can mean 'Latin America or Sub-Saharan Africa. Applicants should explain their own use of the terminology in their respective proposals.

Year Zero (including budget issues)

Q 1: Is the budget for year zero additional to the 3-year project budget, or is year zero and the project implementation budget together amounting to a maximum of USD 1.2 million?

A 1: The year zero cost will be covered under the OC3 grant budget which amounts to a maximum of USD 1.2 million/project.

Q 2: Is the timeframe of 3 years for the project with or without the year zero period? What is the timeframe for the project from when implementation begins after project approval?

A 2: The year zero period is not included in the project timeframe of 3 years.

Q 3: Is there any amount fixed or a percentage of the overall submitted budget for the modest funding in the year zero period?

A 3: There is no pre-established or fixed amount or percentage for the year zero costs. Applicants should consider the overall cost-effectiveness of their proposal and be mindful of the fact that proposed expenditures to be invested on Year Zero will count as part of the budget for the full proposals.

Q 4: Can costs for institutional and planning activities be covered during year zero? Can year zero support development of administrative structures for the alliance for development of the full application?

A 4: Modest costs for institutional and planning activities can be covered as mentioned listed in the template. Cost for administrative structures are not covered in year zero.

Q 5: Is there a fixed percentage of the proposals/Alliances that are invited to the year zero process that will be awarded final projects?

A 5: As grant agent Oxfam IBIS invites proposals from a wide range of organizations. There is no predetermined ratio between Year Zero grants and full proposals foreseen to be supported by EOL. This will depend on the final assessment of the proposals. As some applicants chosen for Year Zero may eventually not submit a final full proposal, the grant agent expects the number of grantees receiving Year Zero support may somewhat exceed the number of grantees foreseen to be awarded a grant for the eventual full proposal.

Q 6: How detailed a needs assessment should the year zero template present?

A 6: The year zero template is only for indicative information to support section 5 in the concept note template. The assessment will not need to be very detailed but can present ideas for possible activities for year zero.

Q 7: Will costs of the budgeted funds used in year zero be covered even if the applicant's full proposal is not funded?

A 7: Yes, costs of the approved expenses in year zero will be covered even if the applicant's full proposal is not funded.

Budget and finance

Q 1: What are the guidelines for indirect rates for working with partners/sub-grantees?

A 1: Only an overall indicative budget with no specification of indirect rates is to be submitted with the concept note.

Q 2: Are there any guidelines for size of the amounts for budget lines in the overall budget e.g % for administration, % for MEL?

A 2: No, for the concept note there are no specific guidelines for amounts of the budget lines.

Q 3: Is the due diligence process/organizational assessment to be made for all alliance members? Or only the lead applicant?

A 3: Due diligence assessments focus on the lead applicant and the associated measures required for the alliance as such to offer an effective grant management. The lead applicant will have the fiduciary responsibility for managing and accounting for the total grant received.

Q 4: Is it possible to provide sub grants through this call to alliance members seeking funding for their projects?

A 4: This is possible, though the grant agent would advise that extensive use of sub-granting modalities may imply that outputs accomplished as part of alliance funding may imply less relevance for the intended alliance outcomes. For OC3, contracting between organizations/ members of the alliance is at the discretion of the lead applicant and according to the approved proposal, but there be competitive sub-granting is not anticipated.

Other/General

Q 1: Are the 2-3 CV's of key project responsables that needs to be attached to the concept note to be from the lead applicant only? Or should CVs from members of the alliance also be attached?

A 1: The CV's to be attached as part of the submission should be for key individuals in the project and can come from different members of the alliance as is found best. You can submit more CVs if practical and relevant.

Q 2: Is it required to upload any legal or administrative documents of the organizations together with the concept note?

A 2: It is only required to upload the documents listed in the guidelines. No legal or administrative documents of the organizations is obliged to be uploaded with the concept note documents.

Q 3: Is there flexibility in the use of language for the concept note and/or the presentation of the outcomes?

A 3: There is flexibility to use either of the four languages.: English, French, Portuguese or Spanish.

Q 4: How many grants are anticipated under OC3?

A 4: There will be between 15 to 20 grants under OC3 in two rounds of CfP.

Q 5: It is in the guidelines indicated that rejected but still qualified concept notes which are not funded due to limited resources, will be shared with other possible funders. Please clarify why a "qualified" concept note is not being funded?

A 5: There will in OC3 only be funds for 15-20 grants. However, all applications will be assessed, scored and eventually balanced by the GISP. After deciding on the balanced portfolio of 15-20 projects to be funded, there might be projects unfunded due to resource constraints or for the sake of balancing the portfolio. The EOL plans to support these by sharing with possible and interested funders in their wide network, if the applicant agrees to this.

Q 6: Are there any plans for future CfP for OC3?

A 6: The EOL programme is planned with two OC3 CfP, where second round will be planned on the basis of learnings from the first round in order to enhance flexibility on balancing and use of funds. The second round of CfP for OC3 is tentatively planned for in the second half of 2020.

Q 7: A multi-country proposal might pose a challenge in terms of identifying local partners given the fragile context and operating in emergency settings. Are there any compliance/ due diligence issues that the lead applicant needs to be aware of when partnering with local partners as part of the alliance?

A 7: Supporting partners working in fragile contexts is a priority for EOL. During Year Zero the grant agent will therefore work with relevant alliances to ensure that relevant measures are put in place to balance 'fragility' with 'effectiveness'.

Q 8: Please specify the sustainability criteria in the Concept template.

A 8: The grant agent acknowledges that OC3 support implies time bound support for project related activities and that alliances awarded an OC3 grant may not continue once the project has been completed. Accordingly, sustainability measures should address indicative plans for the alliance members to incorporate lessons learned and results accomplished in their respective individual organizations.