

IKI Small Grants

International Calls

Funding Information

Call 2024

1. Objective

The IKI Small Grants programme is a complementary instrument within the International Climate Initiative (IKI). It serves to support small, local organisations in the implementation of their climate and biodiversity projects. IKI Small Grants is commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection (BMWK) in close cooperation with the Federal Foreign Office (AA) and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV).

IKI Small Grants focuses on small regional, national, and local organisations in ODA-eligible countries (see details below). Through annual calls for proposals, IKI Small Grants provides project funding to encourage active civil society engagement and implement effective, locally adapted approaches to the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss. In addition, it supports small implementing organisations in further developing their capacities and strengthening their professional networks by customized measures. This aims to foster them as agents of change for climate and biodiversity action on the ground.

The following chapters describe the eligibility and selection criteria of the fifth IKI Small Grants call for proposals 2024. Please find further information in the application guidelines and on the [IKI Small Grants website](https://iki-small-grants.de)¹.

¹ The IKI Small Grants application guidelines can be downloaded on the IKI Small Grants website under <https://iki-small-grants.de/current-selection-procedure/>.

2. Eligibility criteria

Eligible implementing organisations

- In general, applicants should be **not-for-profit** organisations. Private companies are eligible if they pursue strictly non-profit objectives as part of their proposed project. **Individuals or natural persons, one-person organisations and governmental organisations are not eligible** for funding.
- Applicants must be **based and registered in countries that fulfil the criteria for Official Development Assistance (ODA)** defined by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)² Please note that, except for Ukraine, proposals for projects in countries that are official or potential candidates for EU membership are not eligible for IKI Small Grants³. Organisations that are not financially and legally independent and branches of organisations based in a non-eligible country cannot be funded.
- The applicant organisation must have been **operative for at least three years** (36 months by the time of the submission deadline). Over the last three years the applicant organisation must have generated an **average annual revenue of at least EUR 60,000 and no more than EUR 500,000**.
- The applicant organisation must have **dedicated accounting staff** and have accounting principles that ensure **internal as well as external control mechanisms**. The applicant organisation must also employ a **software-based accounting system** which meets its respective national standards.
- The applicant organisations must implement the projects themselves. **Consortia are not eligible** as this could entail forwarding project funds from the lead organisation to partners in the consortia. Forwarding funds is not permitted.

Focus on IKI funding areas

Project proposals must clearly focus on one or more of the following four IKI funding areas⁴:

² DAC list of ODA recipients: [DAC-List-of-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2024-25-flows.pdf \(oecd.org\)](https://www.oecd.org/dac/oda/Recipients-for-reporting-2024-25-flows.pdf)

³ List of EU candidates and potential candidates not eligible for funding: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey

⁴ Please refer to the IKI website for details on the four IKI funding areas at <https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/about-iki/>.

- (1) [Mitigating greenhouse gas emissions](#)
- (2) [Adapting to the impacts of climate change](#)
- (3) [Conserving natural carbon sinks / REDD+](#)
- (4) [Conserving biological diversity](#)

Please note, proposals that do not focus on these funding areas will not be considered. Research projects cannot be financed unless they have a strong implementation component. This means basic research projects concentrating mainly on data collection, evaluation, and publications are not eligible. However, projects that focus on addressing the needs of target groups and achieving substantial changes in the IKI Small Grants' funding areas may carry out project-related research as a side activity.

Countries of implementation

Projects must be implemented in eligible countries as specified under “eligible implementing organisations” above.

Geographic scope of the projects

Projects must be implemented on a local, sub-national or national level. No projects with a global focus can be funded.

Requested funding volume

IKI Small Grants selects project proposals with a total funding volume between **EUR 60,000 and EUR 200,000**. No proposals with financial requests over or under the above amounts will be considered. Furthermore, the requested funding volume must not exceed the average annual revenue of the implementing organisation over the past three years. Generally, no increase in funding is planned for during or after the end of projects. No forwarding of funds to other implementing partners or beneficiaries and no transfers of grant money into any kind of fund are permitted.

Project duration

The duration of the projects covers a minimum of **twelve months and a maximum of two years**. In exceptional cases, durations of up to three years can be acceptable if justified appropriately. The project start should be planned for the **first quarter of 2025 or later**.

Capacity development approach

One of the main objectives of IKI Small Grants is to strengthen capacities of implementing organisations. Once an organisation has been selected, additional funding of up to EUR 10,000 will be made available for measures that specifically target capacity development (CD) priorities. All applicants must therefore outline initial ideas for CD priorities for funding through IKI Small Grants. Upon selection, IKI Small Grants offers a capacity self-assessment tool that the applicant can use to specify the CD measures they can organise themselves.

Application documents

Project proposals must be submitted in **English**. Please keep in mind all communication after submission of the application will be in English. IKI Small Grants works with organisations from many countries with a wide range of languages. Perfect English language skills are not required; however, a good working level in English from at least one person in the project team is essential for effective cooperation.

Preparing an IKI Small Grants application requires some time and effort. To avoid exclusion of the proposal in early selection stages, please make sure that:

- The application is submitted completely. That means that it contains **all the required attachments** (e.g. requested financial statements including relevant information on the applicant's revenue) and that the **application form is filled in completely** and in sufficient detail (e.g. the description of activities)
- The **correct budget template** is used as provided on the IKI Small Grants website
- The **budget template** is filled in correctly and completely, including the **revenue tab**

For detailed information on completing the forms and templates please refer to the application guidelines.

3. Selection criteria

Innovative and **ambitious** projects are explicitly invited and especially welcome. Working towards **gender justice** is a declared objective of IKI Small Grants following the targets outlined in the [IKI Gender Strategy](#). For this reason, projects are considered with priority that follow a gender-responsive or gender-transformative approach⁵, working on

structural discrimination in the funding sectors or are submitted by women's/LGBTQI* rights organisations, cooperatives, or networks.

Young people are disproportionately affected by the consequences of climate change and at the same time important agents of change - in the future and in the present. They bring in their perspectives for innovation and commitment, and their approaches will shape future policies. Project proposals that **engage young people**⁶ are therefore particularly encouraged.

Similarly, project proposals are particularly welcome that take the distinctive role of **indigenous people and local communities (IPLC)**⁷ into account and their roles in governance, conservation and sustainable use of the world's biodiversity and nature.

We further explicitly encourage projects which:

- Support action on the ground to contribute to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030
- Support a just transition of economies towards decarbonisation, including fair social change especially for vulnerable groups
- Strengthen networks, knowledge sharing, and cooperation of organisations working on issues related to climate change and biodiversity
- Develop and promote use of climate-smart technologies
- Contribute to awareness raising and education on climate change and biodiversity
- Engage in cross-sector and multi-stakeholder cooperation
- Support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

We recommend special attention to the following selection criteria:

- Relevance of the proposed project for the objectives of IKI Small Grants
- Quality of the project concept and ambition (comprehensibility of the approach and expected results, effectiveness, choice of appropriate methods, feasibility regarding the project duration and the budget)
- Embedding in local or national policy frameworks for the respective IKI funding area
- Involving relevant stakeholders, like government agencies or other competent organisations in the field of the project activities

⁶ "Youth" defines persons aged between 15 – 35 years

⁷ "...typically, ethnic groups who are descended from and identify with the original inhabitants of a given region, in contrast to groups that have settled, occupied or colonized the area more recently." (IPBES, 2023)

- Qualifications of implementing organisation / applicant (professional expertise and experience, networking with relevant stakeholders, general accordance with the IKI Small Grants target group, clear accounting guidelines)
- Clear description of applicant organisation's capacity development priorities
- Quality of assessment of relevant risks/safeguards and appropriate mitigating measures, likelihood of jeopardizing the project implementation or provoking unintended negative impacts,
- Sustainability of proposed project impacts (continuation of activities after the project end, embedding in national or sub-national development strategies, replicability in other contexts). Projects should be embedded within an enabling environment and produce tangible and practical results that can be replicated further.

4. Selection process

Submissions can be made via the application platform until Wednesday, 13 March 2024. The submitted proposals then undergo a selection process, and applicant organisations will be informed in due time. This can take several months. Please refrain from inquiring about the status of the proposal.

Successful submission of a proposal does not represent any commitment for funding and does not give rise to any legal entitlement. The decision whether to fund a project is based on the review of the proposal and the assessment of the organisation.

Please note that a review phase, including close exchange between the applicant organisation and GIZ, will follow the final selection for funding. Final adjustments to the project proposal and budget may still be necessary to meet all existing standards and requirements of IKI Small Grants.