



European Partnership for Responsible Minerals (EPRM) Call for Proposals 2020

The European Partnership for Responsible Minerals (EPRM) launches a new [Call for Proposals](#) to support activities that help improve conditions in and around tin, tungsten, tantalum and gold (3TG) mines and for miners in conflict-affected and high-risk areas.

Companies, NGOs, public or semi-public bodies and knowledge institutions can submit their ideas for projects that improve the ability of artisanal and small-scale mines to apply responsible mining practices in Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas (CAHRAs).

Focus area

The projects funded by the EPRM should contribute to the vision and ambitions of the EPRM. Hence projects should support:

- Improving working conditions and improving the standard of living for artisanal and small scale miners in CAHRAs;
- Improving the responsible production of minerals/metals at artisanal and small scale mining sites;
- Stimulating the trade of responsible ASM minerals sourced from CAHRA's;
- Preparing artisanal and small scale miners, supply chain actors and the governments of mining countries in CAHRAs for the implementation of the EU Conflict Minerals Regulation.

The activities for which grant funding is sought should be aimed at improving the ability of artisanal and small-scale mines to apply responsible mining practices. Preferred projects will:

- Create a strong and sustainable link with the formal supply chains (for example by providing or increasing access to formal markets, due diligence and/or traceability); and/or
- Include supply chain actors in the project (upstream, midstream and downstream companies); and/or
- Have the potential for long-lasting impact in and around mines and mining communities and project scalability; and/or
- Demonstrate how to share costs of responsible sourcing and due diligence implementation – fair cost sharing - between upstream, midstream and downstream actors and to stimulate trade; and/or
- Show best practices on how to prepare for and implement the EU Regulation on Conflict Minerals.

This round has no specific geographical focus but the activities should take place in a CAHRA.





Technical details

- The quick scan phase of this round of Call for Proposals is now open. Formal applications can be submitted from 23 March 2020 2pm CET until 7 May 2020 2 pm CEST.
- The total budget available for this Call is €3,8 million.
- The grant amounts to a maximum of EUR 800,000 per application. If the requested funding exceeds EUR 340,000, a grant is awarded for a maximum of 70% of the eligible costs and an own contribution of at least 30% of the eligible costs is mandatory
- Requested funding up to € 340.000: Activities must have a duration of at least 12 months and no more than 36 months.
- Requested funding over € 340.000: Activities must have a duration of at least 24 months and no more than 48 months.
- Activities must start no later than 1 November 2020 and end no later than 31 October 2024.

A more detailed description of the programme, procedures and ranking criteria for this Call for Proposals can be found in the [Administrative Rules](#).

Who can apply?

Grants are intended for partnerships, on behalf of which a lead party applies for the grant. A partnership consists of a minimum of two partners, of which one is preferably a supply chain actor. If the partnership does not contain a supply chain actor it must be elaborated how supply chain actors are envisioned to be engaged. In case the requested size of the grant exceeds EUR 340,000, the participation of a supply chain actor in the partnership is mandatory. The role of lead party can be fulfilled by any of the partners. Applicants can be registered in any country.

How to apply?

The application process consists of two phases. During the first phase, from now on until 23 March 2020 2pm CET, a quick scan can be submitted by your organisation or by the lead party on behalf of your organisation. During this phase, the EPRM Secretariat is able to provide advice in case you have specific questions about (the interpretation of) the Administrative Rules or want to discuss your preliminary ideas. Please note that this is only possible during the quick scan phase and not after submitting your full proposal.

The quick scan will be assessed by one of the assigned EPRM advisors, who will make a recommendation on whether or not to develop your ideas further and how to do this. Formats of the quick scan can be downloaded through the link below and, once completed, can be sent to eprm@rvo.nl. The quick scan is compulsory before submitting a formal application.

After the quick scan phase it is possible, from 23 March 2020 2pm CET until 7 May 2020 2 pm CEST, to submit a formal application including a full proposal. Applications will be ranked based on the total number of points awarded in the assessment of the ranking criteria. The applications that meet the criteria best will be given priority in the award of the grants. The mandatory and explanatory documents can be found under '[Downloads & links](#)'. A more detailed description of the programme, procedures and ranking criteria for this Call for Proposals can be found in the [Administrative Rules](#).

Applications are also possible in French and Spanish.

Background EPRM

EPRM is a multi-stakeholder partnership aiming to create better social and economic conditions for mine workers and local mining communities by increasing the number of mines in CAHRAs that adopt responsible mining practices.

EPRM focuses on four conflict minerals: tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold. These minerals are in high demand because of their wide range of applications in important technical sectors, including ICT, automobiles, health care, electronic devices, aerospace, defence and telecommunications.

EPRM covers the entire supply chain, i.e. upstream, midstream and downstream. The OECD Due Diligence Guidance provides a point of departure. EPRM serves as an implementation tool and as a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue and knowledge sharing.

Moreover, the EPRM is an accompanying measure to the European Union Conflict Minerals Regulation that will come into force as of the 1st of January 2021. The regulation is an important milestone, but not sufficient in itself to improve local circumstances in and around mines, especially artisanal and small-scale mines, and thus contribute to inclusive economic development on the ground. To contribute to that, the EPRM is an accompanying measure to the legislation.



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