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SOP 1, Template 2: Request for Categorical Exclusion (RCE)

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova Request for Categorical Exclusion (RCE)

Program/Project/Activity Data:

Activity/Project Name:	Media Program in Ukraine	
Assistance Objective:	2.2 Democracy, Human Rights and Governance	
Program Area:	DR.5 Independent Media and Free Flow of Information	
Country(ies) and/or Operating Unit:	USAID/Ukraine	
Originating Office:	USAID/Ukraine/Office of Democracy and Governance	Date: February 16, 2018
PAD Level RCE: Yes ☐ No ☒	DCN of Original RCE/IEE:	
RCE/IEE Amendment: Yes ☐ No ☒	DCN of Amendment(s):	
Supplemental RCE: Yes ☐ No ☒		
If Yes, Purpose of Amendment:		
DCN(s) of Related EA/IEE/RCE/ER(s):		
Implementation Start/End:		LOP: FY2018-FY2023
Funding Amount:		LOP Amount: \$35,000,000
Contract/Award Number (if known):		
Recommended Determination: Categorical Exclusion		
Additional Elements:		
Government to Government: ☐	Local Procurement: ☐	Donor Co-Funded: ☐

1. Project and Activity Description

1.1 Purpose and Scope of RCE

This RCE covers the new Media Program in Ukraine.

1.2 Project Overview

The purpose of this activity is to strengthen the civically relevant role of media in democratic processes in Ukraine, and expand citizens' access to quality information in order to counter malign influence and support European integration. The Media Program in Ukraine will achieve this purpose through four specific objectives:

- (1) Increase high-quality, engaging content throughout Ukraine, particularly in the East and South;
- (2) Increase public demand for quality information;
- (3) Implement critical media reforms; and
- (4) Strengthen and sustain key media institutions and processes.

Media Program in Ukraine

The scope of the Media Program in Ukraine does not include purchase of equipment or rehabilitation/construction of facilities.

2. Project Description and Climate Risk Screening

Under Component 1, the Media Program in Ukraine will promote high quality content on public-interest topics that engages and educates audiences, and bolsters public debate on critical issues.

Defined or illustrative activities under Component One— Increase high-quality, engaging content throughout Ukraine, particularly in the East and South	Potential Climate Risk	Climate Risk Rating*
1.1 Production of news, discussions, and infotainment across all platforms (TV, radio, print, and digital media) about key reforms at the national level (anti-corruption, decentralization, healthcare, pension, energy, and others) and their relevance for local communities;	N/A	Low
1.2 Promote and support the growth of new media content, and technologies;	N/A	Low
1.3 Grants to media outlets and CSOs for content production;	N/A	Low
1.4 Grants to support quality content on UA:PBC and local affiliates;	N/A	Low
1.5 Grants for local coverage of key national reforms;	N/A	Low
1.6 Grants to cover elections that bolsters public debate on policy issues increased;	N/A	Low
1.7 Training to improve local capacity for in-depth and investigative reporting using open data sets strengthened; and	N/A	Low
1.8 Training to improve journalism skills in developing engaging, tailored content improved.	N/A	Low

Under Component 2, the Media Program in Ukraine will provide support for streamlining media literacy efforts and expanding media monitoring efforts.

Defined or illustrative activities under Component Two— Increase public demand for quality information	Potential Climate Risk	Climate Risk Rating*
2.1 Grants for development of media literacy online materials;	N/A	Low
2.2 Grants to CSOs for citizen skills to determine quality media content, particularly in the East and South; and	N/A	Low
2.3 Grants and technical assistance to Ukrainian organizations to credibly and effectively monitor media for signs of misinformation, payment of news, censorship, harassment, undue pressure, and conflict of interests.	N/A	Low

Under Component 3, the Media Program in Ukraine will support application of key media reforms, provide legal assistance, and support advocacy and oversight.

Defined or illustrative activities under Component Three— Implement critical media reforms	Potential Climate Risk	Climate Risk Rating*
3.1 Strengthen the role of UA:PBC as an independent, appropriately funded source of quality information;	N/A	Low

Defined or illustrative activities under Component Three— Implement critical media reforms	Potential Climate Risk	Climate Risk Rating*
3.2 Support the reform of state/municipal print media into private outlets;	N/A	Low
3.3 Monitoring of implementation of Transparency of ownership law;	N/A	Low
3.4 Monitoring the implementation of Access to information law;	N/A	Low
3.5 Provide access to legal aid and protection to media practitioners; and	N/A	Low
3.6 Grants and technical assistance for advocacy for the legal enabling environment for press freedom by Ukrainian organizations.	N/A	Low

Under Component 4, the Media Program in Ukraine will strengthen media governance mechanisms, expand partnerships and coalitions, and lay the foundation for more sustained local media actors' engagement in Ukraine's democratic process.

Defined or illustrative activities under Component Three— Implement critical media reforms	Potential Climate Risk	Climate Risk Rating*
4.1 Grants and technical assistance to strengthen media governance institutions and feedback mechanisms;	N/A	Low
4.2 Grants and technical assistance to develop models for regulatory, self-regulatory, and co-regulatory approaches;	N/A	Low
4.3 Grants and technical assistance to establish innovative partnerships between media practitioners and non-traditional stakeholders;	N/A	Low
4.4 Conduct training for digital security practices to journalists and organizations; and	N/A	Low
4.5 Training to strengthen media organizations' business development, financial, and management skills.	N/A	Low

3. Justification for Categorical Exclusion Determination

The activities under the **Media Program in Ukraine** will not have an effect on the natural or physical environment and are among the classes of activities listed in 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2). Therefore, under §216.2(c)(1), neither an IEE nor an EA will be required for these activities. Instead, a categorical exclusion threshold determination is recommended for the following identified activities under 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2):

- All Activities under components 1, 2, 3 and 4 fall under §216.2(c)(2)(i) Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.);

4. Limitations of the Categorical Exclusion Determination:

This categorical exclusion does not cover classes of actions normally having a significant effect on the environment under §216.2(d):

- Programs of river basin development;
- Irrigation and water management;

Media Program in Ukraine

- iii. Agricultural land leveling;
- iv. Drainage projects;
- v. Large scale agricultural mechanization;
- vi. Resettlement projects;
- vii. New land development;
- viii. Penetration road building and road improvement;
- ix. Powerplants;
- x. Industrial plants; and
- xi. Potable water and sewerage projects

In addition, this categorical exclusion does not cover activities that:

- Support project preparation, project feasibility studies, engineering design for activities listed in §216.2(d)(1);
- Affect endangered species ;
- Provide support to extractive industries (e.g. mining and quarrying);
- Promote timber harvesting;
- Lead to construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or renovation work;
- Support agro-processing or industrial enterprises;
- Provide support for regulatory permitting;
- Lead to privatization of industrial facilities or infrastructure with heavily polluted property;
- Assist the procurement (including payment in kind, donations, guarantees of credit) or use (including handling, transport, fuel for transport, storage, mixing, loading, application, clean-up of spray equipment, and disposal) of pesticides or activities involving procurement, transport, use, storage, or disposal of toxic materials--pesticides cover all insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, etc. covered under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; and/or
- Procure or use genetically modified organisms.

Any of these actions would require a Europe and Eurasia Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO) approved amendment to the categorical exclusion.

5. Mandatory Inclusion of Environmental Compliance Requirements in Solicitations, Awards, Budgets, and Work Plans

- Appropriate environmental compliance language, including limitations defined in Section 4, shall be incorporated into solicitations and awards for categorical exclusions.
- The implementing partner shall ensure annual work plans do not prescribe activities that are defined as limitations in Section 4.

6. Revisions

Under §216.3(a)(9), if new information becomes available that indicates that activities covered by the categorical exclusion might be considered major and their effect significant, or if additional activities are proposed that might be considered major and their effect significant, this categorical exclusion determination will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the Mission Environmental Officer (MEO) with concurrence by the BEO. It is the responsibility of the USAID Contract Officer's Representative (COR)/Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR) to keep the MEO and BEO informed of any new information or changes in the activity that might require revision of this determination.

7. Recommended Determination for Categorical Exclusion:

Approval :


 Susan K. Fritz, Mission Director

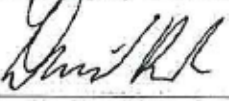
3/14/18
 Date

Clearance:


 John A. Pennell, Deputy Mission Director

3/13/18
 Date

Clearance:


 Joel Sandefur, Regional Legal Advisor

3/12/2018
 Date

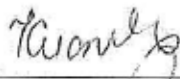
Clearance:

Media Program
Note name change

 David Hatch, Program Office Director

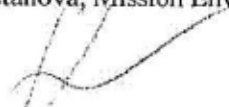
3/7/2018
 Date

Clearance:


 Tatiana Kistanova, Mission Environmental Officer

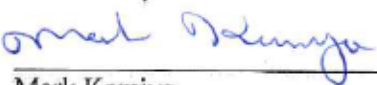
2/26/2018
 Date

Clearance:


 Victoria Marchenko, Activity Manager

2/26/2018
 Date

Concurrence:


 Mark Kamiya
 E&E Bureau Environmental Officer

03/14/2018
 Date

Distribution:

IEE File

MEO (to also provide a copy to AOR/COR)

Attachments: Annex A Climate Risk Screening and Management Tool for Activity/Project/Strategy Design

The Media Program in Ukraine - Climate Risk Screening and Management Tool for Activity Design
 ACTIVITY CRM TOOL OUTPUT MATRIX: CLIMATE RISKS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND ACTIONS

* = A required element, according to the Mandatory Reference

1.1: Defined or Anticipated Tasks or Interventions*	1.2: Time-frame	1.3: Geo-graphy	2: Climate Risks*	3: Adaptive Capacity	4: Climate Risk Rating*	5: Opportunities*	6.1: Climate Risk Management Options	6.2: How Climate Risks Are Addressed in the Activity*	7: Next Steps for Activity Implementation	8: Accepted Climate Risks*
1.1 Production of news, discussions, and infotainment across all platforms (TV, radio, print, and digital media) about key reforms at the national level (anti-corruption, decentralization, healthcare, pension, energy, and others) and their relevance for local communities	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.2 Promote and support the growth of new media content, and technologies	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.3 Grants to media outlets and CSOs for content production	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.4 Grants to support quality content on UA:PBC and local affiliates	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.5 Grants for local coverage of key national reforms	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.6 Grants to cover elections that bolsters public debate on policy issues increased	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Media Program in Ukraine

1.7 Training to improve local capacity for in-depth and investigative reporting using open data sets strengthened	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.8 Training to improve journalism skills in developing engaging, tailored content improved	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.1 Grants for development of media literacy online materials	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.2 Grants to CSOs for citizen skills to determine quality media content, particularly in the East and South	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.3 Grants and technical assistance to Ukrainian organizations to credibly and effectively monitor media for signs of misinformation, payment of news, censorship, harassment, undue pressure, and conflict of interests	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3.1 Strengthen the role of UA:PBC as an independent, appropriately funded source of quality information	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3.2 Support the reform of state/municipal print media into private outlets	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3.3 Monitoring of implementation of Transparency of ownership law	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3.4 Monitoring the implementation of Access to information law	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3.5 Provide access to legal aid and protection to media practitioners	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3.6 Grants and technical	0-5	nation	No risks	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Media Program in Ukraine

assistance for advocacy for the legal enabling environment for press freedom by Ukrainian organizations	years	wide	associated with this component							
4.1 Grants and technical assistance to strengthen media governance institutions and feedback mechanisms	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4.2 Grants and technical assistance to develop models for regulatory, self-regulatory, and co-regulatory approaches	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4.3 Grants and technical assistance to establish innovative partnerships between media practitioners and non-traditional stakeholders	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4.4 Conduct training for digital security practices to journalists and organizations	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4.5 Training to strengthen media organizations' business development, financial, and management skills	0-5 years	nation wide	No risks associated with this component	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A