

Updated Questions Received by 6/14/2019

Q1) Are letters of Agreement or Letters of Intent required under this NOFO?

A1) Yes, as indicated on Page 13 of the revised NOFO, the applicant must obtain a letter of agreement from the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology.

Q2) What is meant/expected by the NOFO's statement that the proposal must create "A streamlined system for processing national and international patent applications is created that leads to 10 additional patent filing"?

A2) It is up to the discretion of the applicant to propose a strategy for developing an efficient patent application system that will result in a targeted filing of 10 additional patents.

Q3) Is a Sustainability Plan required for this NOFO?

A3) A Sustainability Plan is not required. For more information on required documents, please review Section A.1. Required Documents.

Q4) When is the deadline to apply for this NOFO?

A4) Applications are due by Applications must be time stamped before 17:00:00 eastern time (ET) on July 10, 2019

Q5) How may I apply to this Funding Opportunity?

A5) Applicants must submit their application electronically using either Grants.gov OR SAMS Domestic. Please see Section C. Submitting an Application.

Q6) Can you provide any more detail in Priority Area I and give examples of job shadowing?

A6) Job-shadowing activities would involve professionals from emerging Tunisian start-ups embedding with US or Tunisian counterparts at mature start-ups and learning from their daily tasks and responsibilities.

Q7) Can you provide more detail on Project beneficiaries and clarify if start-ups currently in the registration process are eligible?

A6) 2. Yes, these are eligible beneficiaries. It is ultimately up to the discretion of the applicant to decide which participants they want to include.

Original Questions and Answer Responses

***Note: Certain questions have been removed as they are not relevant to the current version of the NOFO.**

Q1) Is there a format (template) for writing the research proposal?

A1) All relevant templates are included in the appendices.

Q2) Is there any limit on the number of collaborators/researchers on the proposal?

A2) No.

Q3) Is there any ceiling on the minimum/maximum amount of funding?

A3) Please refer to page 8 of the NOFO.

Q4) On the cover page of the NOFO and on page 20 it is stated that the "NEA/AC expects to notify applicants who proceeded past the Technical Eligibility Review stage about the status of their application by October 15, 2019." However, page 9 of the NOFO states, "The estimated start date for this project is August 5, 2019." We request clarification of the dates for proposal selection notification projected start date of the project.

A4) NEA/AC intends to have an agreement signed and implementation to begin by August 2019, but understands there may be delays in the process. October 15, 2019 is our best estimate of the latest date of notification.

Q6) Chapter I - Section C – Priority 1: Shall we include the budget for the organization of campaigns in our overall budget?

A6) All projected program costs should be included in the proposed budget.

Q8) Chapter I - Section C – Priority 2: When you mention “technical support for the implementation of the platform”. What does this refer to, does it mean IT assistance?

A8) Technical support could consist of a wide-range of different activities, including, but not limited to, IT assistance. NEA/AC looks forward to reviewing the recommended approaches of each applicant.

Q9) Chapter I - Section C – Priority 2: “Deliver technical support to facilitate the implementation of an online platform that leads to one hundred (100) new companies gaining the start-up designation”. What is the timeline to achieve this objective?

A9) Applicants must submit a project timeline as part of their proposal. The goal is to achieve this objective by the end of the period of performance.

Q10) Chapter I - Section C – Priority 2: Do we need to provide direct assistance to 50 certified start-ups in increasing their workforce / opening and maintaining their foreign-currency accounts or is it an expected consequence of the Priority Area 2 activities?

A10) Applicants should address in their proposal how their recommended activities will achieve this target.

Q11) Chapter I - Section C - Not Allowed Activities: In the project design section, you listed the not allowed activities. Among them, there is the one-time event. Can you please clarify the meaning of one-time events?

A11) All events funded under this project must be part of a wider activity or objective, rather than a single, isolated event.

Q12) Chapter I - Section C - Key Deliverables: “An enhanced entrepreneurial ecosystem that incentivizes and promotes innovation”. How is it materialized? How would it be measured?

A12) Applicants should explain their approach to achieving the project’s objectives and how they plan to measure their programming. The selected applicant will work with NEA/AC’s M&E team to develop indicators and other M&E activities into the scope of work of the award.

Q13) Chapter VIII - Gender consideration: Concerning gender consideration, does it concern only the project stakeholders or is it for the selection process of the start-up commission?

A13) The gender analysis should consider all project beneficiaries and stakeholders.

Q14) Can we include experts from the start-up commission and/or experts that worked on the draft law on project staff?

A14) Current members of the commission may not be project staff but former members and those who worked on the draft law may be.

Q15) Shall we include in the overall planning, budget and Theory of change the optional years activities?

A15) Yes.

Q16) Appendix 3 – Program Narrative (Approach): By specifying that we need to explain how participants will be selected, could you please clarify the meaning of participants (does it include the project stakeholders, the targeted start-ups, the commission?)

A16) Participants are any beneficiaries or stakeholders who take part in the proposed project activities.

Q18) For the two years of potential additional funding should the applicant provide a detailed budget breakdown or only the total estimated funding amount for up to two years of the potential additional funding?

A18) Please submit a detailed notional budget for the two option years.