

Rules for Visegrad Strategic Grants

Visegrad Strategic Grants is a grant program run and financed by the International Visegrad Fund (hereinafter referred to as the “Fund”) aimed at fostering cooperation among the Visegrad Group (V4) countries (Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia) via supporting major projects for sustainable regional cooperation and serving, inter alia, the development of civil society, the improvement of mutual awareness among the V4 societies, and the promotion of the V4 region in line with the annual priorities defined jointly by the current and the upcoming V4 Presidency (the country in chair of the Visegrad Group).

1. Applicant and Project Partners

Any legal entity worldwide can apply for support within the Visegrad Strategic Grants. Visegrad Strategic Grants are awarded to multilateral initiatives where every proposal must involve an active partnership of the applicant and project partners from all four V4 countries (see paragraphs 1.2, 2.5 and 4.1 in the Grants Guidelines).

2. Applying

Project proposals are collected electronically via the on-line system available at <http://my.visegradfund.org/> three times a year always by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on February 1, June 1 and October 1 respectively unless stipulated otherwise in a separate call for proposals (see *paragraphs 2.1–2.5* of the Grant Guidelines).

3. Eligibility

Proposals can only be accepted from those applicants whose previous Visegrad Strategic Grants awarded by the Fund were successfully cleared and concluded by the Fund. Detailed eligibility criteria are listed in the Grant Guidelines (see *paragraphs 1.4–1.5*).

4. Project Budgets

Project budgets are to be prepared in a deliverable-based format. Visegrad Strategic Grants are to cover the costs of all or some of the outputs proposed in the project following a “value for money” principle. Projects can be financed up to 100%; although this is less probable with projects of higher financial value.

Co-financing is allowed and encouraged.

Visegrad Strategic Grants with budgets amounting to €10,001 or more require an audit that can, however, be covered from the project’s budget (see *paragraph 2.6* of the Grant Guidelines).

5. Selection

The Fund’s Executive Director recommends projects for approval to the Council of Ambassadors (see chapter 3. *Project Selection* in the Grant Guidelines). The Council of Ambassadors decides on the projects to be supported within Visegrad Strategic Grants program.

Decisions made by the Council of Ambassadors are final and shall present no grounds for any form of appeal and require no detailed reasoning.

In cases of granting less of the financial support than requested, Fund's Executive Director is authorized to contract an adjusted scope of the project.

Results of the selection are published on Fund's website within 12 weeks following the deadline.

6. Implementation

Upon the decision of the Council of Ambassadors, the Fund shall approach each applicant whose project was approved for funding and commence with pre-contractual arrangements, (see chapter 4. *Contractual Terms* in the Grant Guidelines).

The grants are paid in tranches. There are two tranches for a project at minimum but the Fund reserves the right to decide on the final number and sizes of tranches. The last tranche always amounts to 20% of the granted sum and is payable only upon the Fund's acceptance of the Final (Narrative) Report and Financial Statement. Whereas the first tranches are sent in advance, the last tranche must be pre-financed by the grantee and, if duly approved, the Fund reimburses the due amount (see *paragraph 6.1* in the Grant Guidelines).

The contractual period starts the day the contract approved by the grantee is signed by the Fund's Executive Director. The Fund prepares the contracts and sends them to the grantee by post. The grantee subsequently returns one copy of the signed contract to the Fund, upon the receipt of which the Fund can transfer the first tranche (see chapter 4. *Contractual Terms* in the Grant Guidelines).

7. Reporting

All grantees are to report to the Fund on the project's implementation (see *paragraphs 4.4 and 6.2–6.5* in the Grant Guidelines).

8. Calendar

All grantees are obliged to maintain an up-to-date calendar of events that occur as part of the project (see *paragraph 5.1* in the Grant Guidelines).

9. Visibility and Results of the Project

Acknowledgement of the Fund's support is a key condition of the grantee's reporting (see *paragraphs 4.2 and 5.2* of the Grant Guidelines).

10. Additional Conditions

Additional conditions to these rules may apply if specified in advance in separate calls for proposals published on the Fund's website.