IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme

The BEST 2.0 programme

Issue Date: 23 August 2021

Closing Date and Time: 25 October 2021, 23:59 CET

IUCN Contact:
BESTmediagrants@iucn.org

PART 1 – INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS AND PROPOSAL CONDITIONS

1.1. About IUCN, the EU BEST Initiative and the BEST2.0 Media Grant programme

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

The BEST Initiative is a European dedicated financial mechanism for supporting biodiversity actions in the EU Overseas. It has been is implemented both in the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) and in the Outremosts Regions (ORs) with the aim to unlock the potential of new initiatives and to support local stakeholders to protect a unique biodiversity, beautiful and critical ecosystems and to deploy nature-based solutions. From 2011 to 2018, BEST has financed 90 projects worth a total of EUR 18 million. All of them can be found in this brochure. The activities funded in the Overseas Countries and Territories have been supported by the BEST2.0 and BEST2.0+ programmes.

To enhance the promotion and understanding of the EU support, the BEST Secretariat has launched a Media Grant Programme in the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), a scheme that will provide a maximum amount of EUR 10,000 by grant to freelancers (or consortium of those) and staff journalists (or consortium of those) to boost and amplify impactful coverage of the BEST-funded projects revolving around local stakeholders initiatives and biodiversity conservation.

The geographical scope targets 5 zones: South Atlantic, Polar and Subpolar, Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific. The OCTs are the following: Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Curaçao, Falkland Islands (Malvinas)*, French Polynesia, Greenland, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Saint Barthelemy, Sint Maarten, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Turks and Caicos Islands, Wallis and Futuna Islands, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, Saba, Cayman Islands, French Southern and Antarctic Territories, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Ascension Island, Tristan da Cunha.
The vision of the Media Grants Programme is to increase the visibility of the OCTs as demonstrators of ecosystem-based approaches and key contributors to the achievement of EU and international biodiversity targets.

The mission of the Media Grants Programme is to support quality, sustained and evidence-based reporting of biodiversity conservation across the local and regional media, and to share and amplify the knowledge of these topics in the OCTs. The programme also strives to enhance the motivation of the local population by means of providing them with a sense of ownership of their local biodiversity and ecosystem services.

1.2. Summary of the Requirement

IUCN invites you to submit a Proposal for a multi-format package. Description of the Requirements can be found in Part 2 of this RfP.

1.3. The procurement process

The following key dates apply to this RfP:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RfP Issue Date</td>
<td>23 August 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RfP Closing Date and Time</td>
<td>25 October 2021, 23:59 CET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Contract Award Date</td>
<td>End November 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.4. Conditions

IUCN is not bound in any way to enter into any contractual or other arrangement with any Proposer as a result of issuing this RfP. IUCN is under no obligation to accept the lowest priced Proposal or any Proposal. IUCN reserves the right to terminate the procurement process at any time prior to contract award. By participating in this RfP, Proposers accept the conditions set out in this RfP.

Proposers must sign the “Proposer’s Declaration” and include it in their Proposal.

1.5. Queries and questions during the RfP period

Proposers are to direct any queries and questions regarding the RfP to the IUCN Contact indicated under 1.7. No other IUCN personnel are to be contacted in relation to this RfP.

Proposers may submit their queries no later than 11 October 2021, 23:59 CET.

As far as possible, IUCN will issue the responses to any questions, suitably anonymised, to all Proposers. If you consider the content of your question confidential, you must state this at the time the question is raised.

1.6. Amendments to RfP documents

IUCN may amend the RfP documents by issuing notices to that effect to all Proposers and may extend the RfP closing date and time if deemed appropriate.

1.7. Proposal lodgement methods and requirements

Proposers must submit their Proposal to IUCN no later than 25 October 2021, 23:59 CET by email to: BESTmediagrants@iucn.org. The subject heading of the email shall be [Request for Proposal – BEST 2.0 Media Grant - [Proposer Name]]. Electronic copies are to be submitted in PDF and native (e.g. MS Word) format. Proposers may submit multiple emails (suitably annotated – e.g. Email 1 of 3) if attached files are deemed too large to suit a single email transmission. Proposals must be prepared in English and in the format stated in Part 3 of this RfP.
1.8. Late and Incomplete Proposals
Any Proposal received by IUCN later than the stipulated RfP closing date and time, and any Proposal that is incomplete, will not be considered. There will be no allowance made by IUCN for any delays in transmission of the Proposal from Proposer to IUCN.

1.9. Withdrawals and Changes to the Proposal
Proposals may be withdrawn or changed at any time prior to the RfP closing date and time by written notice to the IUCN contact. No changes or withdrawals will be accepted after the RfP closing date and time.

1.10. Validity of Proposals
Proposals submitted in response to this RfP are to remain valid for a period of 90 calendar days from the RfP closing date.

1.11. Evaluation of Proposals
The evaluation of Proposals shall be carried out exclusively with regards to the evaluation criteria and their relative weights specified in part 3 of this RfP.

1.12 Confidentiality and data protection
IUCN follows the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The information you submit to IUCN as part of this procurement will be treated as confidential and shared only as required to evaluate your proposal in line with the procedure explained in this RfP, and for the maintenance of a clear audit trail. For audit purposes, IUCN is required to retain your proposal in its entirety for 10 years and make this available to internal and external auditors and donors as and when requested.

In the Declaration of Undertaking (Attachment 2) the applicant needs to give IUCN express permission to use the information you submit in this way, including personal data that forms part of the proposal. Where you include personal data of your employees (e.g. CVs) in your proposal, you need to have written permission from those individuals to share this information with IUCN, and for IUCN to use this. Without these permissions, IUCN will not be able to consider your proposal.

PART 2 – THE REQUIREMENT

2.1 Objectives of the Media Grants Programme:
- To support journalists in the OCTs in their coverage of BEST 2.0-funded projects.
- To inspire and stimulate a wave of local, impactful and engaging stories around conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystem services in the OCTs.
- To steer awareness and salience of these topics among the local population, local stakeholders and local governments in the OCTs.
- To trigger interest in the local and regional media for long term reporting of these issues.
- To provide solutions-driven approaches to the narratives that revolve around biodiversity and conservation efforts in the OCTs.
- To underline the common issues the different regions of the OCTs are facing in their support and protection of their local biodiversity and ecosystem services and enhance the need of regional cooperation.
2.2 Type of grant:
The media grants are provided as lumpsum with a maximum amount: EUR 10,000. The projects must be 100% funded by BEST. Co-funding is not allowed. The total budgeted costs of the proposal must be equal to the grant amount requested from BEST.

2.3 Eligibility criteria:
These are the minimum requirements that all applications must meet in order to be considered eligible.

(a) Applicants
Applicants that meet the following criteria can apply:

- Being a freelance journalist (or consortium of those) and staff journalist (or team of those) working for (non-profit or for-profit media organisations) with their principal place of business located in one of the OCTs;
- Publishing and distributing content across, online/web, television, radio, podcasts, online video, mobile app, or any combination thereof. The use of social media should be a complementary activity as multiplier effect, not a primary one;
- Having a proven experience and actively covering topics of relevance for the BEST Programme;
- Having a bank account that accepts international payments.

Specific to freelancers
Being a freelance journalist that has a current CV(s) or online portfolio(s) that demonstrates
- A relevant qualification;
- A history of working with well-established local and regional media;
- A registration as self-employed.

Who is not eligible

- Journalists that have affiliation with political parties in the targeted regions;
- Journalists that are members of any advocacy or lobby groups;
- Journalists that are in a situation of exclusion, as defined in the declaration to be signed by the proponent (Annex 3).

Media partners
A relevant media partner for this media scheme is considered to be one of the following:

- A broadcaster with local or regional reach;
- A mainstream /online magazine or newspaper with broad regional reach;
- A online trade publication or specialist magazine of particular influence as a multiplier.
**Who is not eligible**

- Government-controlled media entities. This does not include “public media entities”, which may include media that are publicly financed and can demonstrate editorial control;
- Media that are totally or partially funded by a political party or an activist group;
- News aggregators;
- News organisation publishing content just via a messaging service and/or social media;
- Media that discriminate based on race, gender, faith, ethnicity, sexual orientation or disability.

**(b) Activities**

**Outputs:** Multi-format (mini-doc, radio podcasts, on-line series, interviews, online long reads, etc) packages that cover the results and the leverage effect of at least two of the BEST2.0-funded projects and that engage local and regional audiences in appealing ways.

**Focus:** The proposed stories put the focus on the results and the leverage effect of one or more of the BEST2.0 projects, whilst highlighting how the BEST Programme has increased the capacity of the relevant local stakeholders in their support and protection of the unique biodiversity and ecosystem and associated services of the OCTs. Stemming from that premise, the approach to the topics at stake should be original, innovative and must involve research reporting on the local sustainable development. The editorial approach should be in line with solutions journalism aiming at highlighting the solutions, the results and best practices deployed thanks to the projects and initiatives funded by BEST.

**Plan:** It is expected from the applicant to submit a publication plan articulating the different media formats to be developed and that should avoid duplications, repetition (see the template in Annex 2).

**What is not eligible**

This media scheme does not support stories that, despite covering local sustainability topics in the OCTs, do not report on and leverage from any of the BEST2.0-funded initiatives.

This media scheme does not fund stand alone stories produced in one single format.

**(c) Costs**

The grant cover the following types of costs:

- **Expenses:** both for freelance individual journalists (or groups thereof) and employed staff journalists (or groups thereof). These can include:
  - Direct expenses for research, travel, accommodation and per diems during travel, if necessary
  - Graphics, design, visualisations, infographics services, etc
- **Staff time:** for both, freelance and staff journalists. The journalists fee should be at market rate and be a reasonable percentage of the overall budget.
What it is not eligible

- The purchase/rental of goods, such as IT equipment, cameras, etc
- Office costs
- Lobbying activities

2.4 Selection criteria

The applications will undergo an initial screening to review the basic eligibility criteria (as described above). Applicants might be requested during the phase to supply any additional information.

Applications worth of funding will be shortlisted on the basis of the best match to the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Editorial quality: Does the proposal take the BEST2.0 funded projects and their leverage as an entry point to address other relevant issues? Does it have newsworthiness and bring an added value to the issues at stake? Does the proposed project go beyond the surface of a story and adopt fresh perspectives rather than replicating stereotypes? Does it come in a compelling and original mixed of formats? Is the choice of BEST projects highlighting their diversity or underlining their complementarity?</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Audience engagement: Does the project have an appealing concept to connect with the audience? Does the project have a solid promotion strategy to draw in a large audience strategy and to resonate with the local and regional communities in the long run?</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Publication plan: Does the project have a solid publication plan involving several media outlets to which the outputs will be catered and a thought-through social media plan so that it can resonate with the target audience overtime? Is the project feasible in the time given?</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Team diversity: Does the proposal gather a diverse and inclusive team of journalists (freelancers or staff) that allows for peer-to-peer learning, that enhances collaboration, that brings together different perspectives and supports gender balance?</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Cost effectiveness of the proposal: Are the outputs of the media grant commensurate with requested resources? Are the planned costs necessary and sufficient to achieve expected results?</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL 25 Points

Only proposals **above the threshold of 15 points** will be considered for selection.

Ultimately, the BEST Secretariat shall consider the overall number of applications worth of funding with a view to ensure a geographical balance among the OCTs.
The BEST Secretariat is bound to strict confidentiality before, during and after the evaluation of the projects.

2.5 Conditions of the grant

(a) Copyright and distribution
Once the outputs have been published, they will be further distributed via the BEST2.0/BEST2.0+ website.

The projects must be published under a universal open access policy, i.e.: they cannot be published under paywalls and have to be freely accessible to a local, regional, national and global online audience.

The two above conditions notwithstanding, the original copy holders (individual freelance journalists or publishers, as the case may be) will retain unrestricted copyright and further exploitation opportunities for their work. Publication under Creative Commons is strongly encouraged in order to allow for global and free access.

All original data generated or created must be made usable for other stories and research. In order to maintain full transparency, any journalistic product that is the result of the BEST funding has to mention the support of the European Union through the BEST Programme. Whenever possible, the BEST and the EU logos will be used.

(b) Financial and output reports of the project
This media grant scheme provides funds to enable freelancers and staff employed journalists to report on BEST2.0-funded projects, and not to receive money for already published work. For more information on eligible and non-eligible costs, please read the dedicated section shown above in this document.

The agreement between the successful candidate and IUCN will take the form of a contract for service on the grounds of a budget that will be double-checked and approved by the BEST Secretariat as credible and reasonable.

The successful candidates will receive lump-sum stipends in several instalments to be defined on the basis of their proposal (2 to 3 instalments):

Grants are paid only in EUR. They are only paid out on bank accounts, not via other money transfer services. Any bank charges for international payments are carried by IUCN, except for exchange rates.

Grantees will not be required to provide detailed documentation of their spending as a precondition of payment of the final instalment (hence the stipend approach). However, grantees will be asked all such relevant documents and might be required to provide them upon request.
2.6 How to apply

The application process is aimed to be simple and efficient, consisting of one-stage application process. The applicant will need to submit an application form (see template in Annex 1) dully filled in and submitted to BEST Secretariat by email to BESTmediagrants@iucn.org by the 25 October 2021, 23:59 CET. The information requested in the application form includes:

- **Background information on the applicant.** Applicants will need to upload a CV or other document indicating their working experience with media organisations.
- **Description of the chosen project.** Applicants need to highlight:
  - Reasons for choosing these projects
  - Editorial angle
  - Public relevance
  - Importance for the OCT or the region
- **Publication plan.** Applicants have to describe:
  - The planned timeline for their project research
  - Media outlet(s) where the project will be published
  - Expected publication date within the given timeline
  - Target (quantitative indicators of the outreach)
- **Letter of Intent (for freelancers):** A “Letter of Intent” from a relevant media organisation with an editor confirming the commitment to publish or air the proposed reporting project is strongly encouraged upon submitting the application. In absence of it, an email exchange with an editor documenting the interest to publish the story will also be accepted. However, if selected to receive funding, the provision of this letter of intent by the applicant will be made mandatory.
- **Project budget** according to the budget template
- **Risk assessment**

Applicants can submit applications in English or French. Templates are available in both languages. Hand-written proposals will not be accepted.

Should you have any questions or encounter any difficulties, please contact the BEST Secretariat. Contact details are available online on the BEST portal following this link.

2.7 Notification of applicants

All applicants, successful or not, will be informed by the BEST Secretariat in writing about the results of their project. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Secretariat if they have additional questions about the decision.

(a) Project support
Grantees can contact the Regional Focal Points and the BEST Secretariat team in order to seek ad-hoc guidance and support as necessary.

A FAQ section in the BEST2.0/BEST2.0+ website provides answers to many specific questions about the grant. For further questions, applicants can contact the BEST Secretariat or the regional focal point at BESTmediagrans@iucn.org.

(b) Important to know

As a condition of applying to and participating in this grant programme, applicants should agree to the following:

- To read in full this Terms of Reference;
- If shortlisted for funding, to read, complete and agree to the Contract for Services, including annexes and Terms and Conditions;
- The named representative (also referred to as the ‘Applicant’) who is completing and submitting an application, should also be the person who will execute and have overall responsibility for their participation in the programme;
Annex 1: Application template

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the project:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Main Applicant: Personal Details

1. Full Name

2. Address

3. Email address

4. Telephone number

5. If you are a freelance journalist, please provide your register number as independent.

Main Applicant: Application Details
1. **Employment status: staff journalist or freelance.**
   Please indicate if you are a staff journalist or a freelancer. If the former, please name your media organisation. If the latter, please name the media outlet(s) you usually collaborate with.

2. **Proven experience**
   If you are a staff journalist, please indicate your position and describe any previous experience in the topic(s) at stake with examples. If you are a freelance journalist, please also describe any previous experience in the topic(s) at stake with examples. Examples of previous and relevant work have to be provided together with this application form, together with an updated CV.

3. **Mediums or channels of the media organisation.**
   If you are staff journalist, please describe the mediums or channels your media organisation publishes on. If you are a freelancer, please describe the mediums or channels your customary media partner(s) publishes on.

4. **Type of content.**
   If you are staff journalist, please describe the type of content your media organisation explores or publishes. If you are a freelancer, please describe the type of content the media organisation(s) you often collaborate with explore and publish.

5. **Publication scope of the media organisation(s), i.e. local, regional, etc.**
   If you are a staff journalist, please describe the publication scope of your media organisation. If you are a freelancer, please provide the publication scope of the media organisation(s) you often collaborate with.
6. **Reach of the media organisation.**
   If you are a staff journalist, please provide approximate reach of your media outlet(s), i.e.: Digital (Monthly Unique Users or Browsers); Broadcast (Total Listeners, Total Viewers). If you are a freelance journalist, please provide the same metrics of the media outlet(s) you collaborate with, if at all possible.

7. **If the application is from a consortium of journalists, please indicate and provide updated CV’s of all of them.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name</th>
<th>Media organisation (s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journalist #2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalist #3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalist #4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Project details**

1. **Project Title and Editorial Concept.**
   Please indicate your project title and describe your project concept in a nutshell (max. 2 sentences)

2. **Project Region Focus.**
   Please indicate the OCT or the region your project will focus on.

3. **Project media partner (s).**
   Please indicate the media outlet(s) that will carry your project. If you are a freelancer, please describe how the partnership will work.

4. **Featured BEST 2.0-funded projects.**
Please indicate the name and reference numbers of the BEST2.0 projects that your project will focus on.

### 5. Project Description (max 300 words)
Please describe how your project is going to approach the coverage of the BEST2.0-funded field actions and use them as an entry point to address other relevant topics.

### 6. Project Editorial Quality (max 300 words).
Please describe what makes your approach to the topic(s) compelling by answering the following questions:
- Does the project have newsworthiness and bring an added value to the issues at stake?
- Does it go beyond the surface of a story, adopt fresh perspectives and gather different sources?
- Does it come in a compelling and original mixed of formats?

### 7. Importance for the OCT or the region.
Please describe the public relevance that your project will have in the OCT or region where it will be published.

### 8. Audience engagement.
Please describe if and how your project proposes a strategy to connect and involve the audience, i.e. this can be from a callout (asking audiences for feedback on stories), to local community events or community training on the topics at stake, to social media sharing to host community conversations (Facebook groups).

### 9. Team.
Please describe if your project gathers a diverse and inclusive team in terms of background, competences and gender.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10. Project formats and publication.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please attach your publication plan to this application as Annex 2, and make sure you use the provided template. Please provide a brief description to the questions listed below:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- What are the formats your project will be published in?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- How will you match the formats and the content?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- In how many instalments will your projects be published?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- How will you make evident that the individual pieces belong to a series?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11. Project budget.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please attach your budget as Annex 4 to this application and make sure you use the provided template.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>12. Letter of intent.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If you are a freelancer, please indicate below if you have a “Letter of Intent” from the media organisation (s) that will publish your project. The provision of this letter with an editor confirming the commitment to publish or air the proposed reporting project is strongly encouraged upon submitting this application. In absence of it, if you have an email exchange with an editor documenting the interest to publish the story. If selected to receive funding, the provision of this letter of intent by the applicant will be made mandatory. Any of the above-mentioned documents must be attached to this application as Annex 5.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>13. Coronavirus contingency plan.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Due to the current pandemic, please explain if you have a back-up strategy in case continuing travel restrictions affect some aspects or the full extent of your original plan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Name of the applicant: ______________________

Date: _______________________

Signature: ___________________

Please provide a detailed project timeline (see table 1) describing the planned activities and their duration as of the signing of your contract. The scope of the activities listed must encompass the project research, through to the output publication. A special focus must be put on detailing a compelling and articulated publication planning (see table 2), which must include a brief and yet clear reference to the media format deemed to be best suited for the content. Upon the submission of the application, it is not necessary to provide concrete dates for the outputs publication. The publication planning must nonetheless demonstrate that the applicant has a robust concept at this point in time.

**Project Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of activity</th>
<th>2nd Fortn. NOV’21</th>
<th>1st Fortn. DEC’21</th>
<th>2nd Fortn. DEC’22</th>
<th>1st Fortn. JAN’22</th>
<th>2nd Fortn. JAN’22</th>
<th>1st Fortn. FEB’22</th>
<th>2nd Fortn. FEB’22</th>
<th>1st Fortn. MAR’22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public announcement and contract signing (BEST Secretariat)</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Publication Planning**

Please add as many line as output/media support. Please describe the output/media support and the editorial rational leading you to use this support. Please discrbe also the timeline and provisional deadlines and the foreseen publishing media.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of output</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Publishing Media</th>
<th>Approximate publication date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Output #1. Please describe the journalistic product and the editorial reasons for having chosen this format. Please provide also a description of the expected timeline and the media outlet(s) in which the project will be published, and the expected publication date(s);</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output #2. Please describe the journalistic product and the editorial reasons for having chosen this format. Please provide also a description of the expected timeline and the media outlets in which the project will be published, and the expected publication date(s);</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Output #3. Please describe the journalistic product and the editorial reasons for having chosen this format. Please provide also a description of the expected timeline and the media outlets in which the project will be published, and the expected publication date(s);

Name of the applicant: ______________________

Date:  _______________________

Signature: ___________________
Annex 3: Declaration

LEAD APPLICANT DECLARATION

The applicant, represented by the undersigned, being the authorised signatory of the applicant, in the context of the present call for proposals, hereby declares that:

- the applicant has sufficient financial capacity to carry out the proposed action or work programme;
- the applicant certifies the legal statutes of the applicant as reported in the application;
- the applicant has the professional competences and qualifications specified in the BEST2.0 Request for Proposals (RfP);
- the applicant undertakes to comply with the principles of good partnership practice;
- the applicant is directly responsible for the preparation, management and implementation of the project and is not acting as an intermediary;
- the applicant is not in any of the situations, which are listed below excluding them from participating in contracts. Furthermore, it is recognised and accepted that if the applicant participates in spite of being in any of these situations, they may be excluded from other contracts:
  - they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
  - they, or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them, have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment of a competent authority of the country of the contracting authority, of the country in which they are established and of the country where the contract is to be performed, which has the force of res judicata (i.e. against which no appeal is possible);
  - they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify, including by decisions of international organisations;
  - they are not in compliance with their obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
  - they, or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them, have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering or any other illegal activity;
- the applicant is eligible in accordance with the criteria set out in the BEST 2.0 RfP;
- if recommended to be awarded, the applicant accepts all the contractual conditions as laid down in the Standard Contract.
- the applicant is aware that, for the purposes of safeguarding the financial interests of the EU, their personal data may be transferred to internal audit services, to the European Court of Auditors, to the Financial Irregularities Panel or to the European Anti-Fraud Office. The applicant is fully aware of the obligation to inform immediately the BEST Secretariat to
which this application is submitted if the same application for funding made to other sources has been approved by them after the submission of this application.

Name of the authorised representative: ______________________

Position: ____________________

Date: _______________________

Signature: ___________________  
(Media organisation Stamp, when applicable)