

PTB EaP QI4GT Fund

First call for proposals - Terms of Reference

Background

The regional PTB project “Quality Infrastructure for Increased Trade in the Eastern Partnership Countries” funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), supports quality infrastructure (QI) institutions from the following Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, (Belarus), Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine in adapting their services and processes for promoting value creation, productivity and innovation to be in line with international and European best practices. The project focusses on QI work processes and services for a sustainable and digital transformation in EaP countries. To strengthen the QI in the field of Green Transformation (GT), PTB set up the Quality Infrastructure for Green Transformation (QI4GT) Fund. This is the first call for proposals under the new QI4GT.

Main parameters of the Fund in a nutshell:

- Proposals for the QI4GT Fund can address any value chain
- Proposals must be submitted by a QI institution (lead partner)
- Proposals need to include at least one more partner in addition to the QI institution

Purpose

The purpose of this call for proposals is to identify and support promising QI initiatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine that contribute to Green Transformation in the EaP countries.

Who is eligible for funding?

All quality infrastructure institutions from the EaP region, such as a National Metrology Institute, a National Accreditation Body, a National Standards Body or a Ministry responsible for QI, can apply.

They must team up with non-QI stakeholders such as organisations from the private, non-governmental or academic sector, working on Green Transformation approaches.

Conformity Assessment Bodies are eligible but need to team up with a QI institution and another stakeholder.

The project partners can be from the same EaP country or from different EaP countries.

What can be funded?

All projects or initiatives that contribute to the development and application of quality infrastructure services to the [Green Transformation](#) are eligible for funding. The identification of QI service needs for specific value chains and the development of QI services for the Green Transformation itself are supported.

The proposed projects and initiatives preferably cover soft measures (consulting, training, information dissemination, travel expenses, proficiency tests) and to a smaller extent (less than 10% of the requested funding volume) allocated for the acquisition of reference materials, stationary or small-scale equipment or other devices and accessories.

The total amount of the requested support shall not exceed 50,000.00 Euro.

The funding proposal should include own contributions by the beneficiaries which can be made “in kind,” e.g. by providing staff, premises, or catering.

How can interested parties apply for funding?

Interested parties can apply for funding from the QI4GT Fund by filling out an application form. The application form, attached to the ToR, is available on the PTB [EaP website](#) and in addition is sent via email to QI partners in the five EaP countries.

Interested parties, who need support with project development, have several opportunities to have their questions addressed:

- There will be a live Q&A session for project development on April 25 at 11:00 CEST at the following [link](#)
- The most frequent Q&A from the live session will be summarized on the project website: <https://www.eastern-partnership.ptb.de>
- Additional questions can be addressed directly to eastern-partnership@ptb.de
- The national PTB coordinator for each country can be contacted: eastern-partnership@ptb.de

All applications must be submitted via email in PDF format to the following email: eastern-partnership@ptb.de

The deadline for proposal submission is May 31, 2023.

How are the projects selected?

Funding is provided in rounds. The application period for the first funding round is planned for April 11 – May 31, 2023. The selection committee will decide on the successful proposals by July 11, 2023.

A committee will assess the quality and feasibility of the proposals with a special focus on the five selection criteria.

Criterion	Question
1. Contribution to the cooperation between QI institutions and Green Transformation stakeholders.	To what extent will QI institutions and Green Transformation stakeholders be working together to implement the proposed project?
2. Development of QI.	How does the project contribute to the development of the QI institution(s) (standardization, metrology, accreditation, conformity assessment)?
3. Relevance for Green Transformation.	To what extent is the project in line with specific country needs and priorities for Green Transformation?
4. Demonstrated demand/need for the potential outcome a. <i>Outcome option 1:</i> Contribution to the generation of new QI knowledge products related to Green Transformation. b. <i>Outcome option 2:</i> Contribution to the generation of new or improved quality services aimed at the Green Transformation.	To what extent is there a demonstrated demand/need for the proposed outcome of the project activities? What is nature of the proposed outcome (for which a need/demand is demonstrated)? a. Will the proposal's implementation result in a publication or other awareness raising material, demonstrating the importance of QI for the Green Transformation? b. To what extent will QI institutions develop new or adapted services for the Green Transformation?

What is the timeline?

The first call for funding proposals will be published on April 11, 2023.

Interested QI institutions have to submit their proposals by 31st May. By the beginning of July, the Steering Committee should confirm the pre-selection of approved applications.

The communication with successful applicants, including need for revision/ specification, will be conducted between June 26 and July 11, 2023.

The activities funded through QI4GT should be implemented by June 30, 2024

Milestone	Deadline
Formal publication of 1 st call for proposals.	April 11 th , 2023
Q&A information session.	April 25 th , 2023 11 am CEST
Deadline for proposal submission	May 31 th , 2023
Communication with successful applicants / revision requests.	June 26 th , 2023 onwards
Finalization of the specification of activities by selected projects/initiatives.	July 11, 2023
Completion of project	June 30, 2024
Submission of final report on the project	July 31, 2024

What documents must be submitted?

Please fill in the proposal template in the Annex of the ToR.

The proposal should be submitted in English.

All applications must be submitted via email in PDF format to the following email: eastern-partnership@ptb.de with the subject line: **QI4GT Call- Application (Title proposal)**.

Please note that applications submitted **after the deadline (May 31, 2023) will not be considered.**

For questions about the Fund, the application process or the selection procedure please contact Corinna Weigelt or Suzana Lange at eastern-partnership@ptb.de

What are the communication and reporting obligations for the successful proposals?

Funded projects should always acknowledge the support of the QI4GT Fund/ BMZ (media, presentations, websites, etc.). PTB and German cooperation logos must be visible in all communication material related to the project.

A reporting template will be provided. Reporting will take place in accordance with the requirements of the PTB. Furthermore, PTB will establish regular contact with the approved projects to ensure visibility and support.

Annex

Annex I: Proposal form