

IKI Small Grants

International Calls

Funding Information

6th call for proposals 2025

1. Objective

The IKI Small Grants programme is a complementary instrument within the International Climate Initiative (IKI). It serves to support small, local organisations in the implementation of their climate and biodiversity projects. IKI Small Grants is commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection (BMWK) in close cooperation with the Federal Foreign Office (AA) and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV).

IKI Small Grants focuses on small national and local organisations in ODA-eligible countries (see details below). Through annual calls for proposals, IKI Small Grants provides project funding to encourage active civil society engagement and implement effective, locally adapted approaches to the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss. In addition, it supports small implementing organisations in further developing their capacities and strengthening their professional networks by customized measures. This aims to foster them as agents of change for climate and biodiversity action on the ground.

The following sections explain the eligibility criteria for applicant organisations, the type of projects to be funded (funding object), the thematic funding priorities and the selection criteria. Finally, the selection process will be explained.

Please find further information in the application guidelines and on the [IKI Small Grants website](#).

2. Eligibility and selection criteria

2.1 Eligible criteria for implementing organisations: Which organisations can submit project proposals?

- In general, applicants should be **not-for-profit** organisations. Private companies are eligible if they pursue strictly non-profit objectives as part of their proposed project. **Individuals or natural persons, one-person organisations and governmental organisations are not eligible** for funding.
- Applicants must be **based and registered in countries that fulfil the criteria for Official Development Assistance (ODA)** defined by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)¹ However, except for Ukraine, proposals for projects in countries that are official or potential candidates for EU membership are not eligible for IKI Small Grants². Organisations that are not financially and legally independent and branches of organisations based in a non-eligible country cannot be funded.
- The applicant organisation must have been **operative for at least three years** (36 months by the time of the submission deadline).
- Over the last three years the applicant organisation must have generated an **average annual revenue of at least EUR 60,000 and no more than EUR 500,000**.
- The applicant organisation must have **dedicated accounting staff** and have accounting principles that ensure **internal as well as external control mechanisms**. The applicant organisation must also employ a **software-based accounting system** which meets its respective national standards.
- The applicant organisations must implement the projects themselves. **Consortia are not eligible** and forwarding funds to other implementing organisations is not permitted.

¹ DAC list of ODA recipients: [DAC-List-of-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2024-25-flows.pdf \(oecd.org\)](https://www.oecd.org/dac/ODA-recipients/)

² List of EU candidates and potential candidates not eligible for funding: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey

2.2 Which projects are funded?

Project proposals must clearly focus on at least one of the following four IKI funding areas³:

- (1) [Mitigating greenhouse gas emissions](#)
- (2) [Adapting to the impacts of climate change](#)
- (3) [Preserving and restoring carbon sinks](#)
- (4) [Conserving biological diversity](#)

Countries of implementation

Projects must be implemented in countries that fulfil the criteria for Official Development Assistance (ODA) with the same exemptions mentioned for applying organisations mentioned under 2.1.

Geographic scope of the projects

Projects must be implemented on a local, sub-national or national level. No multi-country projects can be funded.

Requested funding volume

IKI Small Grants selects project proposals with a total funding volume between **EUR 60,000 and EUR 200,000**. No proposals with financial requests over or under the above amounts will be considered. Furthermore, the requested funding volume must **not exceed the average annual revenue of the implementing organisation over the past three years**.

Project duration

The duration of the projects covers a minimum of **twelve months and a maximum of two years**. In exceptional cases, durations of up to three years can be acceptable if justified appropriately. The project start should be planned for the **first quarter of 2026 or later**.

³ Please refer to the IKI website for details on the four IKI funding areas at <https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/about-iki/>. Your project must be attributed to one main funding area, even if it contributes to more than one. Please note that IKI Small Grants endeavours to achieve an even distribution of projects across the four funding areas. As the number of applications in the individual funding areas varies greatly, this results in a different acceptance rate. In previous calls, the following approval rates were achieved for the individual funding areas: Mitigation 6,4%; Biodiversity 6,8%, Forest / Sinks 10,8% and Adaptation 3,0%.

Capacity development approach

One of the main objectives of IKI Small Grants is to strengthen capacities of implementing organisations. All applicants must therefore outline initial ideas for CD priorities for funding through IKI Small Grants. Upon selection, IKI Small Grants offers a capacity self-assessment tool that the applicant can use to specify the CD measures to be supported.

2.3: Selection criteria

The assessment of the submitted project proposal covers the following aspects:

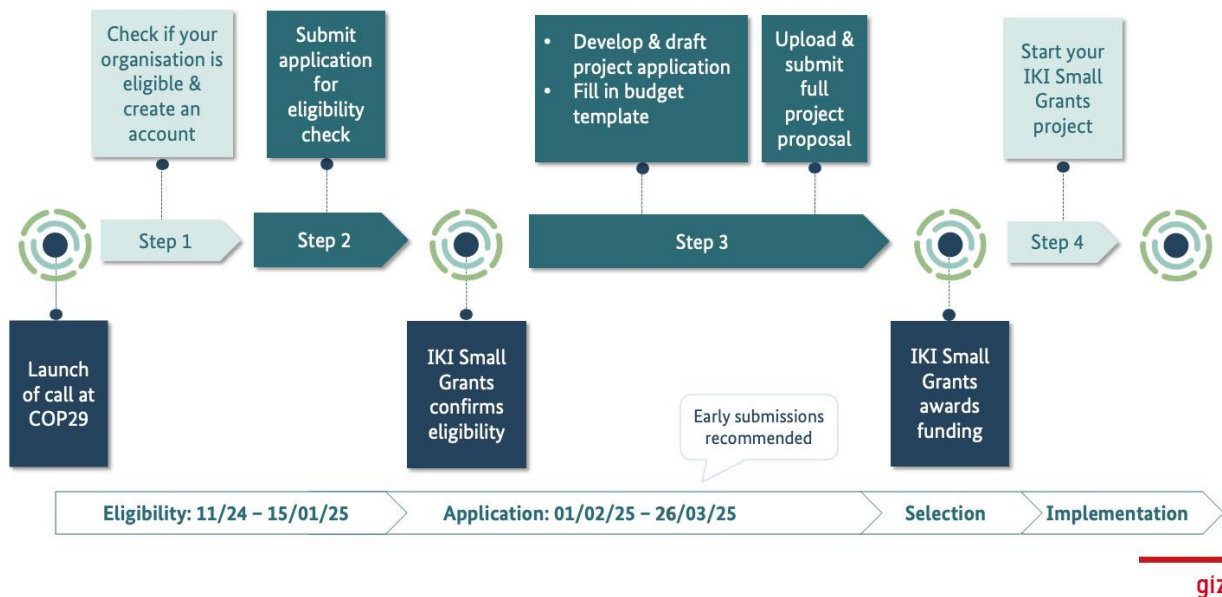
- **Relevance** and level of **ambition** of the proposed project for the objectives of IKI Small Grants, which includes the expected impacts regarding the respective IKI funding areas and possible contributions to national or sub-national climate and biodiversity targets and strategies. Projects that aim at improving livelihoods of local communities, vulnerable persons, empowerment and engagement of indigenous people and local communities (IPLC)⁴ and young persons⁵ are welcome. Projects may also aim at strengthening networks, knowledge sharing, and cooperation of organisations working on issues related to climate change and biodiversity, or contribute to awareness raising and education on climate change and biodiversity, including promotion of awareness campaigns and climate / biodiversity related journalism. Also, projects that aim at developing sustainable and climate-friendly urban and peri-urban areas are welcome.
- **Quality of the project concept:** Coherence and comprehensibility of the approach and expected results, choice of appropriate methods, feasibility regarding the project duration, consideration of gender aspects (see [IKI Gender Strategy](#)) and the quality and comprehensibility of the budget)
- Involvement of **relevant stakeholders**, like government agencies or other competent organisations in the field of the project activities
- **Qualifications of implementing organisation** / applicant (professional expertise and experience, networking with relevant stakeholders, general accordance with the IKI Small Grants target group, clear accounting guidelines)
- **Quality of assessment of relevant risks and safeguards** and appropriate mitigating measures, likelihood of jeopardizing the project implementation or provoking unintended negative impacts

⁴ "...typically, ethnic groups who are descended from and identify with the original inhabitants of a given region, in contrast to groups that have settled, occupied or colonized the area more recently." (IPBES, 2023)

⁵ "Youth" defines persons aged between 15 – 35 years

- **Sustainability of proposed project impacts** (continuation of activities after the project end, embedding in national or sub-national development strategies, replicability in other contexts) and / or **potential for upscaling**.

3. Application and selection process



Organisations that are interested in submitting a proposal must first pass an eligibility check. In this first stage, applicants are asked to provide information on their organisations and submit the following supporting documents:

- Registration certificates
- Financial statements covering the last three available years including relevant information on the applicant's revenue
- Completed revenue template
- Accounting & procurement guidelines

Organisations interested in participating in the 6th IKI Small Grants call must submit this information and these documents via the application platform by January 15, 2025.

Qualified organisations will subsequently be invited to submit their project proposals and budget until March 26, 2025, through the same platform.

The submitted proposals then undergo a selection process, and applicant organisations will be informed in due time. This can take several months. Please refrain from inquiring about the status of the proposal.

Successful submission of a proposal does not represent any commitment for funding and does not give rise to any legal entitlement. The decision whether to fund a project is based on the review of the proposal and the assessment of the organisation.

Please note that a review phase, including close exchange between the applicant organisation and GIZ, will follow the final selection for funding. Final adjustments to the project proposal and budget may still be necessary to meet all existing standards and requirements of IKI Small Grants.

Consultation sessions will be offered during the application period. Please check for details on the IKI Small Grants Website.

4. Additional information

4.1. Compliance and Complaints Mechanisms

To ensure and continuously improve the programme's high quality, its implementation is based on the principles of fairness and transparency, conformity to rules and compliance with the law. These principles are directed externally to applicants and project implementing organisations and internally to the management of IKI Small Grants.

Please find information on the available [complaints mechanisms here](#).