



**ANSWERS TO APPLICANT QUESTIONS  
RECEIVED DURING PERIOD**

**16 APRIL – 30 APRIL 2024**

**Call for proposals on  
Data-driven Digital Social Innovations in Africa  
(1<sup>st</sup> round)**

**REPONSES AUX QUESTIONS DES SOUMISSIONNAIRES  
RECUES PENDANT LA PERIODE**

**DU 16 AVRIL AU 30 AVRIL 2024**

**Appel à propositions sur les  
Innovations sociales numériques basées sur les données en Afrique  
(1<sup>er</sup> tour)**

**BEL22006-10001**

Contracting authority: Enabel, the Belgian development agency  
Autorité contractante : Enabel, l'agence belge de développement

**wehubit@enabel.be**

[www.wehubit.be](http://www.wehubit.be)

Pour le français, voir page 3



In accordance with the guidelines of **this Call for Proposals on Data-driven Digital Social Innovations in Africa** :

- Applicants may send their questions by e-mail to [wehubit@enabel.be](mailto:wehubit@enabel.be) before Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (see table). The Wehubit Programme will not be obliged to provide clarification on questions received after this date.
- Questions will be answered at the latest by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Questions and answers will only be published in the language in which they were received. In order to ensure privacy, organisations names are kept anonymous.

<b>Calendar (Round 1)</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Hour (Brussels time)</b>
<b>Deadline for submitting questions</b>	April 30, 2024	1 pm
<b>Deadline date for responding to questions</b>	May 10, 2024	/
<b>Deadline for submitting Grant application concept notes</b>	May 21, 2024	1 pm



Conformément aux lignes directrices de cet **appel à propositions sur les innovations sociales numériques basées sur les données en Afrique**:

- les demandeurs peuvent envoyer leurs questions par courrier électronique à [wehubit@enabel.be](mailto:wehubit@enabel.be), au plus le mardi 30 Avril 2024 13h00 (voir tableau). Le Programme Wehubit n'a pas l'obligation de fournir des éclaircissements sur des questions reçues après cette date.
- Il y sera répondu au plus tard le vendredi 10 Mai 2024. Les questions et réponses ne seront publiées que dans la langue dans laquelle elles ont été reçues. Dans un souci de confidentialité, les noms des organisations ne sont pas mentionnés.

<b>Calendrier (1<sup>er</sup> tour)</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Heure (de Bruxelles)</b>
<b>Date limite envoi des questions</b>	30 Avril 2024	13:00
<b>Date limite réponses aux questions</b>	10 Mai 2024	/
<b>Date limite soumission des notes conceptuelles de demandes subsidie</b>	21 Mai 2024	13:00



## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024

### EMAIL 1:

Could you please clarify whether, when applying to the project with a co-applicant, the budget related to the costs of the actions they will implement is directly allocated to the co-applicant or if it goes through the main applicant?

### ANSWER 1:

Wehubit's contact for all administrative and financial matters will be the applicant, therefore budgets will always be transferred to the applicant and not to the co-applicant.

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### EMAIL 2:

We are a social enterprise, but we are not designated as a 'not-for-profit'. Are we eligible to apply for this call?

### ANSWER 2:

Wehubit can only provide grants to not-for-profit actors, this is also the case for social enterprises. If your company is registered as a not-for-profit organisation, you are eligible. If not, you are unfortunately not eligible. In this case, you could still take part in this Call together with a lead and/or co-lead applicant as an associate, though - as stated in the guidelines - this means costs incurred are not eligible, and you are ineligible to receive grants.

Another, and maybe more interesting option for you, is the second call that will be launched by HAUS and ESTDEV for the private sector soon.

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### EMAIL3:

Our programme is a coalition, most of our work is implemented with and through partners, this is part of our ethical distributive funding model where we ensure resources are allocated to organisations in country, in particular smaller organisations that would not otherwise be able to engage on the issue. The grant guidelines state that: "Applicants may not offer to support third parties financially (sub-grants)". Yet in the Introductory note you encourage a multi-stakeholder approach. Does this mean we are unable to support / provide funding to our CBO and CSO partners to organise activities as part of this grant, were we successful?



**ANSWER 3:**

Indeed, the selected projects will not be authorized to offer sub-grants to third parties. An option is to apply to this Call as lead-applicant and add the organisations you mention as co-applicants. Although, if you are referring to very small structures, this does entail some risks as Enabel's procedures are extensive and difficult. Another option could be to open a public grant, though this would of course be a competitive process, and there would be no guarantee that the organisation you aim to support will receive the grant eventually.

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**EMAIL 4:**

There is a criteria in your guidelines that states that applicants need to have managed at least 40% or more of the funding requested in this Call; we have managed more than 40%, but it was funds provided by the central government and not donors. Do we still meet the criteria?

**ANSWER 4:**

It does not matter where your funding came from before, so indeed, you would meet this criteria.

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**EMAIL 5:**

Please can you clarify whether we apply under Lot 2 given that we would like to work in Ghana/Senegal and Kenya?

**ANSWER 5:**

if you would like to work in Ghana/Senegal and Kenya, then indeed please apply for Lot 2. Your organisation would only be eligible to apply for Lot 1 if it was focusing exclusively on Senegal.

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**EMAIL 6:**

- A) Our understanding is that an applicant can be a legal entity registered in any country around the world. Will you prioritize applications submitted by entities based in the EU or any of the implementing countries, or is that not a factor in the evaluation of project submissions.
- B) Do you recommend inclusion of co-applicants/lead-applicants that are based in the project country?
- C) Due to the nature of the call and focus on digital solutions, technologies and data ecosystems, utilization of existing technologies developed by private actors (big tech) seems almost inevitable, particularly with an eye on scalability. The guideline states on p6 that: "including a private sector actor as an associate will be considered as an asset. However, they may not be eligible under the project as service, goods or works providers". Does this mean that as long as no project funding goes to the private sector actor, the use and inclusion of (open source)



technology owned by a private sector company (e.g. google or Microsoft) would be permissible?

**ANSWER 6:**

- This is not one of our evaluation criteria - we will evaluate the projects based on the evaluation grids shared in Annex G and H.
- It is of course considered as an asset to have implementing partners based in the country of project implementation, either as lead-applicant or co-applicant, as a good knowledge of the context is key to successful execution of the project.
- As Enabel is executing under Belgian Law, we are not allowed to distribute direct funding to a private sector actor (either as lead-applicant or co-applicant). But as mentioned in the guidelines under 2.1.1: Contracting-beneficiaries may award contracts to contractors. Contractors shall be subject to public procurement rules (if Contracting Beneficiary is public) or the rules set forth in Annex VIII of the Grant Agreement template (if Contracting Beneficiary is private). Associates cannot at the same time be contractors (services, works, equipment) for the project.

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**EMAIL 7:**

I work at ministry level, which is a government institution. I've tried to fill out Annex A.1, Profile of the organization. There are sections such as origin, registration number, place of registration, general assembly, election, etc. As a ministry or government institution, we don't have that information. Can I leave it blank?

**ANSWER 7 :**

Indeed, you can leave these sections blank. Though please make sure to precise whether you are applying for a national/regional/provincial government and to include its full name.

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**EMAIL 8:**

We do not have a legal classification of a social enterprise, we are therefore seeking clarification on what we can present for you to determine that we are a social enterprise.

**ANSWER 8:**

Very important to note for social enterprises applying to this call is that they have to prove that maximising benefits is not the goal of the enterprise (as Enabel/Wehubit can only give grants to not-for-profit actors). In order to prove this, we would need you to provide profit and loss accounts dating back to the last three years and balance sheets in order for us to check where the benefits go.