

What is new in the instructions concerning the Partnership Agreement Scheme?

Updated on 4 June 2012

Effectiveness – impacts

The use of these two terms in the instructions and annexes has been revised so that the instructions are consistent with the guidelines issued for bilateral projects. At the annual reporting level, attention is paid to outcomes, but effectiveness is also addressed in the reporting covering longer periods of time.

1.1 Goals and principles of CSOs' development cooperation

2.2 Principles of good development cooperation

The cross-cutting goals have been updated in accordance with the new Development Policy Programme and a link to the tools available on the Ministry's website, which will be updated in the course of 2012, has been added.

1.2 Preconditions for government support

The selection criteria have been updated and they have been approved by a decision of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, dated 9 May 2012.

2.2. Principles of good development cooperation

The Ministry's ethical code of conduct is provided in Annex 6.

2.2.1 Environmental sustainability

A section on environmental sustainability has been added in accordance with the Ministry's new guidelines; environmental sustainability is now one of the cross-cutting goals. A link to the Ministry's FAQ page has been added.

2.2.2 Intellectual property rights

A section on intellectual property rights has been added in order to make the instructions consistent with the Project Guidelines.

3.1.1. Applying for government support

A new title and instructions on electronic application have been added.

3.1.2 Annual plan and programme plan updated

Guidance is provided on how to inform about a change of use in a uniform manner.

3.2.1 Monitoring by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and mechanisms of dialogue

The updated selection criteria section has been revised.

3.3.1 Staff expenses

A list of hired staff members is not to be appended to the project plan and reports.

3.5.1 Annual report

A separate section in the annual report is devoted to evaluation of the outcomes.

3.5.2 Financial section in the annual report and expenses audit

The report does not need include a list of employees hired using support for development cooperation, their pay and the grounds of pay, but the organisation must have such a list to be available on request by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

3.5.3 Other reports

The text has been made more straightforward to make it clear that the annual reports mentioned in the section mean reports made of projects.

Annex 1

The selection criteria applied to partnership organisations in accordance with a decision of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, dated 9 May 2012.

Annex 2

Terminology has been changed in paragraph 6: personal assistance has been replaced by technical assistance (i.e. expert cooperation).

Annex 3

Paragraphs 6.1 and 8.1 have been reformulated as concerns effectiveness and outcomes to keep the text in line with the wording of the instructions.

Annex 4

The partnership programme's audit

Guidance has been added applying to possible delays of audit reports.

A standard format audit report for the partnership organisation's Finnish auditor. Reference to the audit recommendation 800 has been removed and it has been replaced by directions to observe the international audit standard in both Finnish and English.

Annex 5

The text has been revised to be in line with the instructions.

Application

- Revised to be consistent with the new electronic application method. The basic information notice and application for government support are submitted using electronic forms.
- An annual plan of implementation is not appended to the application any more.

Development cooperation programme

The administrative and monitoring organisations have been transferred from the project plan to the programme, and the timetable has been removed from this section.

Programme Plan

- Cross-cutting goals are supplemented by environmental sustainability.
- Ensuring the sustainability of results has been added.
- Addressing the Accra Agenda for Action and poverty reduction strategies has been added.
- A risk assessment plan and a monitoring plan have been added.
- Specification: possible development communications and education plan.
- Human resources plan and the grounds of pay are presented in the project plan – if necessary, more detailed information and updates are given in the annual plan.

Annual plan

- Audit reports to be appended.
- A list of hired employees is no more needed (Instructions, paragraph 3.3.1)
- Specification: possible development communications and education plan.

Annex 6

The Ministry's ethical code of conduct applying to organisations' government-supported development cooperation is appended.