



Netherlands' Funds for Regional Partnerships (NFRP) Matra

Introduction

The aim of the NFRP Matra programme is: *'Using the Netherlands' expertise in the areas of democracy, the rule of law and human rights to contribute to social transformation leading to a sustainable and stable relationship between government and citizens, and to invest in the bilateral relationship with the recipient countries and in the partners for the future.'*

Matra projects are primarily focused on the capacity development and institutional strengthening of local civil society organisations, the judiciary and public institutions; and promoting constructive dialogue between these various actors.

The core of a sustainable and stable society is formed by a sound and balanced relationship between government and citizens. That requires engaging in dialogue at national and local level. A broad spectrum of civil society organisations have a role to play in this dialogue. A more resilient civil society and a modern institutional environment with sufficient capacity are necessary conditions for a sustainable relationship between government and citizens. An independent legal system to which both government and citizens are accountable is also indispensable to make that relationship legitimate and stable.

The Netherlands has a rich tradition when it comes to a sound relationship between government and citizens and a stable political culture. This has helped the Netherlands accumulate specific knowledge on democracy, the rule of law and human rights, from which the recipient countries can benefit. The choice of themes within Matra reflect this tradition: **legislation and justice; good governance (public administration, public order and the police).**

The NFRP Matra programme is complementary to EU policy; it is therefore essential that Matra activities complement broader efforts to strengthen the EU's neighbourhood and pre-accession policies.

Matra is demand-driven, small-scale and flexible. This means that it can support projects that can respond rapidly to changes in society, making it a catalyst for change.

What types of projects are eligible?

Under the auspices of MATRA framework the Embassy of the Netherlands in Belgrade supports activities of primarily civil society organizations in Serbia and Montenegro that promote transformation process in following areas:

1. Legislation and justice

- Legislation: new legislation or amendments to existing legislation, both the legislative process and the substance of legislation, and assistance in implementing legislation on one of the subjects mentioned in this section;
- Organisation of the judiciary and the professional, efficient, independent, predictable, impartial, transparent and honest administration of justice;
- Law enforcement, crime-fighting, investigation and prosecution of offences, including strengthening the public prosecution service;
- Adoption of international standards on criminal law, trying war criminals in their own country, and cooperation with international tribunals;
- Juvenile justice policy: the system of juvenile criminal law, child protection services and combating domestic violence;

2. Good governance (public administration/ public order/ police)

- Enhancing the verifiability, legitimacy, predictability, transparency and democratic character of government action;
- Decentralisation and deregulation, management and funding of public services;
- Anti-corruption;
- Professionalising the police – notably its relationship with the general public, public administration and the public prosecution service – prevention, integrity and community policing;
- Prison reform and probation;
- Strengthening the immigration system, applying the Schengen rules, implementing EU's asylum and migration policy.

What are the requirements?

- Applications for project financing must be relevant to the overall aim of the program and should exclusively concern the Matra themes mentioned above.
- Project financing is primarily available for local civil society organizations and educational non-profit organizations.
- Dutch civil society organizations may also be eligible for funding if the Embassy considers this to have added value.
- The financing can be used for Dutch technical assistance (government-2-government).
- The project value should be over EUR 25,000.
- The project should not last longer than 3 years.

The following factors will also be taken into account:

- how the problem, objective, target group and envisaged results are presented and linked to the overall program aim;
- coherence between proposed activities and budget;
- active involvement of the target group at all stages of the project;
- extent of the target group's own contribution (financial or in kind);
- sustainability of the activity;
- management capacity of the implementing organisation;
- distribution over Matra themes;
- the 'social transformation' potential of the proposed activity

Not eligible for funding under the Matra Embassy Program:

- humanitarian aid;
- commercial activities;
- projects with a predominantly academic focus, i.e. feasibility studies, research, etc;
- projects that exclusively or largely include the delivery of goods or

- materials;
- infrastructural or construction projects;
- bursaries;
- training courses for civil servants or members of the diplomatic corps.

The application procedure

- Applications must be submitted to the Embassy of the Netherlands in Belgrade via email to bel-os@minbuza.nl .
- Applications should be submitted on a standard application form available on the website of the Embassy and in English language, as PDF files.
- There is no deadline for application; the program is open for applications throughout entire year until the funds have been depleted.

Approval, contract, payment and reporting

If the project is approved, the applicant will receive two copies of the contract, outlining the conditions of the grant. One copy must be signed and returned to the Embassy of the Netherlands. Upon its receipt, the first instalment of the grant will be paid.

The applicant is required to submit final narrative and financial report within two months from the finalisation of the project. The Embassy reserves the right to also request progress reports during the course of the project.

Upon approval of the reports the Embassy will pay the remaining instalment(s). The Embassy reserves the right to inspect the project accounts and activities at any time.

Caveat:

Since the Matra funds for each embassy are limited, project proposals will not necessarily be approved even if all of the above requirements are met.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Embassy:

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands	tel.: 011 – 2023 900
Milentija Popovica 5b, 6th floor	fax.: 011 – 2023 999
11070 BELGRADE	e-mail: bel-os@minbuza.nl

Contact person for projects is **Aleksandra Kalinić**.